Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you know what Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution is about?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Apple, the world's most valuable company, hits the $600 billion level. ➤ PAGE 13

NATION

Rick Santorum clears the way for Mitt Romney to claim the Republican nomination. ➤ PAGE 14

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A rule change would allow transgender women to participate in Miss Universe. ➤ PAGE 19

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CHC needs US citizen nurses for immediate hiring. PAGE 3

Inos: Govt, UMDA poised to sign deal to rehab La Fiesta

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the government is about to seal an agreement with United Micronesia Development Association Inc. for the latter to revitalize the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque, an idle facility that has been costing the government $200,000 in annual lease.

UMDA was one of three bidders that responded to a request for proposal to revitalize the former mall.

The two others were Island Ventures LLC and Pacific Entertainment Technology.

Besides re-establishing a commercial tourism center, the multimillion-dollar project will also ease the government's annual lease payment of $200,000 for

See LA FIESTA on Page 4

4 seized vehicles from Japan destroyed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENO
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REPORTER

Four vehicles from Japan that the Customs Services Division seized in October 2006 for failing to meet U.S. standards were turned over yesterday to a recycling facility for destruction.

The four seized vehicles include a Cadillac 32v Northstar, a Chrysler Vision, a Buick Regal Estate Wagon GM, and a 1995 Chevrolet Van Astro—all consigned to Pineapple Saipan Inc. and YMC Kanko Co. Ltd.

Customs director Jesus C. Muña said the U.S. brand vehicles manufac-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

An employee of Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc. guides the loading of a Chrysler Vision on top of another seized illegal vehicle from Japan, at the Customs Services Division's seaport facility in Puerto Rico yesterday afternoon. The four vehicles, which did not meet U.S. standards and therefore could not be used in the CNMI, were up for dismantling and crushing six years after Customs seized them.

Close to $18M tax rebate, other checks released

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said yesterday that the Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open this Friday "to give taxpayers an additional day to file their tax returns" ahead of the April 17 deadline for filing 2011 tax returns.

» **Rev&Tax open on Friday to help taxpayers ahead of filing deadline**

Larson Finance expects some 20,000 income tax returns to be filed this year.

This will only be the extra Friday that Rev&Tax will be open to help handle the expected surge in last-

See REBATE on Page 4

Report: Japan may partly shoulder cost of US base on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration and the Tinian mayor's office separately said yesterday they have yet to receive any communication from the U.S. Department of Defense regarding Japanese media reports that Washington, D.C. is considering Tokyo's proposal to shoulder part of its expenses for the development of a U.S. military base and related facilities on Tinian.

» **CNMI officials yet to hear from Defense on its plans**

If confirmed, any permanent military base on Tinian "would be economically

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Local

‘Independent Republicans’ endorse Kilili

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The so-called “Independent Republicans” endorsed yesterday the re-election of Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), following in the steps of the Covenant Party, which is also supporting Sablan.

“Independent Republicans” or IRs are former members of the Republican Party who did not support Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s chairmanship of the party after what they described as a questionable election process last year.

Fitial wanted Sablan, who is seeking a third term, to be replaced by someone from his Republican Party.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), chairman of the Independent Republicans, said yesterday that Sablan has been “doing a good job.”

“Why not Kilili? We’re satisfied with his performance. We are very comfortable that Kilili will continue to do a good job and we feel that he is the best candidate,” Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Former representative and lieutenant governor Diego Benavente, vice chair and secretary of “Independent Republicans,” echoed Reyes’ statements about their choice.

Sablan, when asked for comment, said he’s “very grateful” for the Independent Republicans and their supporters’ endorsement of his candidacy.

“As always, I will continue to work hard for our people and the CNMI in Washington, D.C. in Congress. I welcome anyone and everyone’s support,” he said.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), also an Independent Republican, said he supports Sablan because the work he does is “generally supported by members in U.S. Congress. It’s about the quality of work and not necessarily the quantity of bills introduced.”

Fitial’s Republican Party was scheduled to meet again last night at the governor’s private residence in Gualo Rai. Republicans were to hear from John Oliver “Bolis” Gonzales whether he accepts or not the GOP’s nomination as their delegate candidate.

As of 6:45pm last night, Gonzales had yet to make an announcement of his decision.

Reyes, meanwhile, said those who want to run as Independent Republicans in Precincts 1 and 3 have until April 15 to submit their intention to him or Benavente.

Besides Precincts 1 and 3, the Independent Republicans will also field a senatorial candidate for Saipan—Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

Among incumbent Independent Republicans are House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, Rep. Frank Dela Cruz, and Rep. Tony Sablan.

Judge: Plea bargain for 2 rob suspects extremely lenient

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho rejected yesterday a plea agreement entered by two cousins who are charged with robbing a female Japanese tourist and dragging her several meters in their getaway vehicle.

Camacho found the plea agreement “extremely lenient.”

“The proposed sentence is not in line with the standards of this court and the CNMI community,” said Camacho in rejecting the plea agreement for suspects Gustavo Meme Ybanez and Oscar Porras Jr.

In the case against Ybanez, the plea agreement proposed a five-year prison term for Ybanez, all suspended except for two years, with credit for time served.

Based on the plea bargain, Camacho said that Ybanez would be facing just two years in prison, with no restrictions on parole. As a result, Ybanez may be eligible for early release in just a third of the two years, or within eight months.

“In other words, because he has already served six months, he may be eligible for early release in as little time as two months,” the judge said.

Although the plea agreement proposes some restitution and community service, Camacho said he is not convinced that these sanctions render the proposed disposition fair.

“Robbery is a serious offense. [Ybanez] here forcibly snatched a woman’s purse off her person,” Camacho said.

In the case against Porras, the plea agreement proposed to dispose of two cases—robbery and theft. The most serious charge—accessory after the fact to robbery—carries a maximum sentence of five years.

The plea deal proposed an eight-year combined prison sentence, on four guilty counts to run concurrently. The total jail sentence is five years but three years are suspended.

Although there is an appearance of serious jail time, Camacho said that Porras would actually be facing just two years in prison, with credit for time served and no restriction on parole.

“As a result, [Porras] may be eligible for early release in one third of the two years, or eight months. In other words, because he has already served six months, he may be eligible for early release in as little time as two months,” Camacho said.

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CHC reviews pending applications to replace outgoing nurses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center is now reviewing several applications to replace outgoing nurses at the public hospital, according to nursing director Leticia Reyes.

She confirmed yesterday that 17 nurses have resigned due to uncertainties in their retirement contribution as well as other concerns.

Reyes said that CHC is now immediately hiring U.S. citizen nurses, while the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is scouting for nonresident applicants who may still be on island at this time to fill the void.

Reyes said the number of nurses at CHC is now down to 157, but she vowed to maintain the department's 167 full-time employees.

Due to budget constraints, the hiring of nurses has been capped at 167 since the corporation's takeover in October last year. The hospital had over 230 nurses in previous years.

Reyes said that all hospital employees who have plans to retire or resign were asked to provide the corporation three months' advance notice so as not to hamper services at CHC.

Reyes said that most of the 17 resigning nurses will serve until the end of May and June.

While she's sad about their departure, Reyes had nothing but good words for them. "Most of these nurses have been at the hospital for as long as seven years and it's sad to see them leave. But I cannot blame them. There are several factors in their decision and I understand. I thanked them for their professionalism and by giving us time to look for their replacements."

Reyes said the corporation asked for the 90-day notice from resigning employees to cover the processing period of CW visas for nonresident nurses who may be hired to replace them.

"We started reviewing all the pending applications for nurses and some calls have already been made to nonresident applicants to check if they're still on island and willing to serve the hospital," she said. Most of these pending applicants are nurses from the Philippines.

While optimistic, Reyes admits that she is still unsure if all 17 slots will be filled with qualified replacements within just three months.

She believes this latest round of resignations is the largest number ever filed at the hospital in a short period of time and admits that there are still some nurses who are thinking of resigning but are being encouraged to stay.

She assured, however, that services are not being hampered and patients-to-nurse ratio—five patients to every nurse—is still within the standard.

MPLT declines CUC's $7.5M loan guarantee proposal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Marianas Public Land Trust has declined the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s request to serve as its guarantor for a $7.5 million loan it plans to use to fund improvements at Power Plant 4.

MPLT chair Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero informed CUC about its decision in a letter dated April 5.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC asked MPLT on March 27 to invest in the utilities firm by acting as a guarantor for the sum of $7.5 million at a rate of 2 percent. This loan will be used to meet some requirements of the contract for Power Plant 4.

CUC has an existing contract with independent power producer, Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp., to run power plant 4.

"MPLT declines further consideration of the proposal until such time as CUC obtains the review and approval of the proposed contract/transaction by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission," Deleon Guerrero said in an April 5 letter to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren.

CUC officials declined to comment on the issue when asked about it yesterday. It was not immediately known where CUC was planning to draw the loan.

In his letter to CUC, Deleon Guerrero said that, while MPLT is aware that nominees to the commission remain pending and one nominee has been rejected by the Senate, it is his view and position that a commission review is appropriate before MPLT considers the matter.

In addition, the MPLT board cannot favorably act on the loan guarantee proposal as the board has set a 30-percent limit of funding to be loaned out for local investments, Deleon Guerrero said in an interview yesterday. With the funding request from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the 30-percent investment cap may reach that limit.

"The funding for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. investment may reach that limit in the near future. For these reasons, the prospect of MPLT pursuing the investment may be difficult," added Deleon Guerrero.

Besides the CHC loan proposal, the MPLT board has also on its table the $235,000 loan proposal of Arctic Circle Air.

The MPLT portfolio is currently valued at $74 million, based on the latest information released.

Docomo Pacific donates $1K to MMAC

Docomo Pacific is supporting the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer by donating $1,000 to the cancer awareness cause.

The donation has earned Docomo Pacific a major sponsorship title in the biggest cancer fundraising event in the CNMI. Major sponsorship is conferred on companies that donate $1,000 to $2,999 in cash or services.

"The 2012 MMAC committee is extremely grateful to the staff and management of Docomo Pacific for their support in the battle against cancer. We commend their efforts in supporting this worthy cause," said MMAC overall committee chair Catherine Attao-Toves.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Commonwealth Cancer Association's signature fundraising event to be held at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao on April 27 to 28 from 6pm to 6am. Attao-Toves said they have 16 teams working hard to sell luminaries at $5 each. The community can also support the event by purchasing raffle tickets, also at $5 each, which will be drawn during the event. To purchase luminaries and tickets or for more information, call 285-1828, email attaoc@yahoo.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Dress: Something you don't mind getting wet.
Note: Inside the restaurant is off limits to water activities, however, outside seating area has no rules.
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Indian Ocean tsunami watch issued for Aceh quake

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—A tsunami watch was issued for countries across the Indian Ocean after a massive earthquake hit waters off Indonesia on Wednesday, triggering widespread panic as residents along coastlines fled to high ground in cars and on the backs of motorcycles.

Some were screamed "God is great" as they poured from their homes. Others, separated from relatives, cried as they ran frantically through the streets.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the 8.6-magnitude quake was centered 20 miles (33 kilometers) beneath the ocean floor around 269 miles (434 kilometers) from Aceh's provincial capital.

The tremor was felt in Singapore, Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia and India. High-rise apartments and offices on Malaysia's west coast shook for at least a minute.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii said a tsunami watch was in effect for Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Myanmar, Thailand, the Maldives and other Indian Ocean islands, Malaysia, Pakistan, Somalia, Oman, Iran, Bangladesh, Kenya, South Africa and Singapore.

A tsunami watch means there is the potential for a tsunami, not that one is imminent.

Said, an official at Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency who goes by only one name, said a tsunami warning has been issued for cities all along the coast of Sumatra island.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told reporters: "There is no tsunami reported so far, but we remain vigilant."

"Our warning system is working well, and I have ordered the national relief team to fly immediately to Aceh to ensure the situation is under control and to take any necessary action," he said.

Thanks God, from what I heard there is neither casualties reported nor major damage in Banda Aceh or other places," he added.

There was chaos in the streets, with fierce shaking continuing for nearly four minutes.

Patients in several cities poured out of hospitals, some with drips still attached to their arms. In some places, electricity was briefly cut.

"It wasn't the strongest quake I've felt," said 22-year-old Tuti Rahmi, while trying to reach her brother by phone.

"But it seemed to last forever," she said. "Hopefully there won't be too much damage."

One hour after the temblor, people were still standing outside their homes and offices, afraid to go back inside.

There were several strong aftershocks.

"I was in the shower on the fifth floor of my hotel," Timbang Pangaribuan told El Shinta radio from the city of Medan. "We all ran out. ... We're all standing outside now."

He said one guest was injured when he jumped from the window of his room.

Thailand's National Disaster Warning Center issued an evacuation order to residents in six provinces along the country's west coast, including the popular tourist destinations of Phuket, Krabi and Phang-Nga.

India's Tsunami Warning Center issued a tsunami warning for parts of the eastern Andaman and Nicobar islands, said Kishore Swarna Angel, a scientist at the center.

ERRATUM

The last paragraph in the article "SHRM's Workforce Readiness ready to go" that was published in the April 11, 2012, edition of the *Saipan Tribune* was inadvertently deleted due to space constraints. The last paragraph states: "This program is supported by federal funds in the amount of $102,000 under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs, CNMI Economic and Labor Enhancement Program through a sub-grant award from the CNMI Department of Commerce." Our apologies. For more information on this program, contact SHRM's Frank Gibson at hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

JAPAN

From Page 1

beneficial for the municipality and the Commonwealth as a whole," said press secretary Angel Demapan.

"More so, it would also mean that the United States would finally honor one of the terms of the technical lease agreement. That is that a base would be situated and operated on Tinian," the press secretary said.

Two-thirds of land on Tinian is leased by the U.S. Department of Defense.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported that "Tokyo apparently made the proposal to fend off Washington's demand that Japan increase its share of the costs of the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. The realignment is currently under review." The Japanese media quoted sources close to Japan-U.S. relations.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said he has not heard directly from the military of any plan to build a permanent base on Tinian.

The report came out while Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is still awaiting response from Defense Secretary Leon Panetta regarding the governor's request for a renegotiation of the 100-year Tinian land lease agreement, citing lack of promised military activities on the island.

When asked whether the reported plan to build a base on Tinian might make Fitial change his mind, Demapan said the reported plan is "a promising sign."

"But again, this information has yet to be communicated to our local government, so it's still a bit premature to speculate at this point," Demapan said. "The information being reported by Japanese media has not been communicated to the Commonwealth government by any DoD official."

So far, the only concrete proposal on the table regarding Tinian is the construction of live-fire training ranges that were approved last year.

Moreover, over 200 Marines from Japan are set to train on Tinian in May to June under "Exercise Geiger Fury MAG-12." MAG-12 stands for Marine Aircraft Group-12.

The Joint Guam Program Office had yet to respond to a request for confirmation of the Japanese media report as of last night.

The *Yomiuri Shimbun* said the Japanese government plans to shoulder the U.S. base development costs on Tinian, an island with a population of 3,000.

"It would do so to establish a joint training base for both countries, since the Ground Self-Defense Force is planning joint military exercises with the U.S. Marine Corps on the island, eight kilometers from Saipan and 160 kilometers from Guam, according to the sources," it said.

Washington is urging Japan to adopt a greater financial burden in the realignment, but Tokyo is asking the U.S. to maintain the Japan-U.S. agreement in 2006 that capped the Japanese burden at $2.8 billion, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* said.

Tokyo is hoping to break this stalemate by shouldering part of U.S. expenses for development of the facilities on the island, in addition to Japan's share of costs for relocating U.S. Marines in Okinawa Prefecture to Guam, it added.

Ground Self-Defense Force personnel and U.S. Marines have been conducting joint amphibious exercises at a U.S. marine base in California and other locations. However, they could not find a suitable location in the western Pacific.

The Japanese side believes the GSDF will be able to conduct such exercises with U.S. Marines more often and improve its capabilities if the exercises can be held on Tinian.

The U.S. side is said to be receptive to the proposal because U.S. Marines have difficulty conducting large-scale exercises in Guam, partly due to the proximity of training facilities to civilian residential areas.

Meanwhile, the Tinian lease was already paid in full by Defense through 2030, making it unlikely to be renegotiated now as the Fitial administration has been asking Defense. That payment totaled $33 million.

But Demapan said Fitial "still maintains that the lease shouldn't be considered as 'fulfilled' just because the dollar figure was paid."

"As a signatory to the technical lease agreement, Gov. Fitial continues to push for the fulfillment of the other terms and conditions, such as the promise of a military base, civilian employment opportunities, and commissary privileges for the people of Tinian," Demapan said.

He added that these promises "were part of the reason our local leaders agreed to execute the Tinian lease agreement, because there were benefits for the people."

"Now, decades later, the promises that the military made to the people of Tinian have yet to materialize. This is why Gov. Fitial is raising the issue to Defense Secretary Panetta, so that the people of Tinian may be given what was promised to them," Demapan said.

Panetta has yet to respond to Fitial's letter.

REBATE

From Page 1

minute tax filers this year.

Tuesday's deadline for filing 2011 tax returns comes at a time when the government has released 75 percent of 2010 tax rebate/refund checks.

Larson said the government has released close to $18 million in tax refund/rebate checks, federal stimulus or the Making Work Pay Credit checks, and child tax credit checks this year.

"We are still clearing errors with tax payer filings and as those errors are fixed, we work on release of the rebates/refunds. The deadline to pay depends upon how long it takes taxpayers and/or employers of taxpayers to fix these errors," Larson told *Saipan Tribune*.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer, while rebate is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos separately said the government has been seeing improvements in its cash collection, that's why payroll has been on time the past months.

For the first two quarters of fiscal year 2012, Inos said the government has been collecting the amount it projected. The fiscal year 2012 budget is $102 million.

Inos said the government expects further fiscal improvements starting in the last quarter of fiscal year 2012 with the launching of Saipan Air in July that would bring in additional tourists to the CNMI.

VEHICLES

From Page 1

tured and imported from Japan do not meet U.S. data plate standards for air emission control, among other things.

"If it doesn't have the data plate, that means they probably didn't conform with our standards for emission control, may not be fixed for pollution control," Muña said in an interview at the Customs seaport area in Puerto Rico yesterday.

Muña said that Customs consulted with both the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Office of the Attorney General on the vehicles seized.

BMV director Juana C. Leon Guerrero, who was also at the Customs seaport area yesterday, said the vehicles also did not meet the requirements of CNMI Public Law for vehicle registration.

At past 1:30pm yesterday at the Customs seaport area, personnel from Saipan Triple Star Recycling loaded the four cars and one van into a boom truck to be brought to their recycling area in Lower Base.

Muña said that Customs ordered the vehicles to be dismantled or destroyed piece by piece and to make sure the parts won't be used in the CNMI.

"Today, we have this recycling company to come and pick it up and they're going to be destroyed, either shredded or run over by bulldozer, either one of two…because it cannot be driven on the road. We don't want the parts to be used by anybody else so if it's denied entry and nobody wants to claim it, we're going to destroy it," he said.

Muña said that Customs has been sending out notices to the owners of the vehicles since 2006, asking them to ship the vehicles somewhere else or send them back to where they came from, to no avail.

He said the latest notice was sent out some two weeks ago.

The Customs director also said their legal counsel issued an opinion that the division could now proceed to have the seized vehicles destroyed, prompting Customs to call a recycling firm to haul them.

Ge Zhao, general manager of Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc., said depending on the vehicle parts, they will ship the items to China, Taiwan, or South Korea.

"But the plastic parts, we will bring to Marpi landfill. Soon we will also recycle plastics," Zhao told *Saipan Tribune*.

Muña said neither Customs nor Saipan Triple Star Recycling paid each other for this undertaking.

"They're not going to pay us, and we're not going to receive any payment from them. We just wanted to take it away from us and use it as scrap metal," he said.

The vehicles have been sitting at the back of the Customs seaport facility since 2006, Muña said. They were already "used" but fully operational when they were shipped to the CNMI six years ago.

LA FIESTA

From Page 1

the property.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said UMDA has "good ideas" on how to revitalize La Fiesta to make it a tourist attraction once again.

"We're close to executing a contract with a firm that will basically revitalize La Fiesta," Inos said in an interview after he signed a proclamation yesterday morning declaring April 2012 Autism Awareness Month.

Besides retail shops, boutiques and restaurants, the facility will also feature video lottery terminals, said Inos.

"We'd like to do it right away," Inos added.

Inos said this agreement is not so much about UMDA paying the government to use La Fiesta, but more about the government allowing UMDA to revitalize the area to make it a revenue-generating facility.

"Of course the only issue that we have is the annual rental payment, which is something we're negotiating right now," Inos said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's proposed fiscal year 2013 budget "zeroes out" the annual $200,000 lease payment for the La Fiesta property.

Inos said this is in anticipation of the agreement between the government and UMDA, wherein UMDA will take over the $200,000 annual payment of the lease.

"The public could expect economic development and employment," he added.

UMDA chair Joe Lifoifoi referred questions yesterday about the La Fiesta matter to David Wickline.

Wickline, the UMDA executive negotiating the agreement with the government, is currently off island. As of last night, Wickline had yet to respond to media requests for comment.

UMDA owns the now-closed 313-room The Palms Resort across La Fiesta. It has been negotiating with foreign investors, including the Korean-based E-Land, for the purchase of the hotel.

Initial estimates placed the cost of renovating the La Fiesta Mall at $5 million, but this figure has turned out to be too conservative.

The CNMI government has been paying for the mall property lease at least since 2004, a year after the government bought the complex in 2003 initially for the Northern Marianas College's Pacific Gateway Project but this did not take off.

PSS faces uncertainty in shipment of new school buses

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The shipment of school buses and special vans for the Public School System is facing uncertainties beginning this fiscal year after PSS learned that it is no longer allowed to directly apply for grants with the Federal Transportation Administration.

Jack Diaz, the PSS FTA program manager, disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that PSS became a sub-grantee of all FTA grants since the creation of the Commonwealth Office of Public Transit Authority, which means all its applications will go through the local transit authority office that will review and decide on all PSS applications.

Diaz said that PSS has been directly applying and receiving FTA grants since the '90s with an average of $1.1 million being approved each fiscal year. These funds were used to buy school buses and vans for all 19 schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. A portion of these awards was allocated for vehicle maintenance every year.

PSS has 28 66-seat buses in all—24 on Saipan and two each on Rota and Tinian. PSS also has eight vans on Saipan and two vans each on Tinian and Rota—all procured through FTA awards.

» Public Transit Authority takes over FTA grants

Diaz said the FTA Region IX office was already notified of the transition this fiscal year.

"They [local transit authority office] took over all the FTA grants…so this means PSS would no longer receive any of these grants beginning this year. Honestly, this would bear a great impact to public schools because we're not sure if they're going to continue the allocation for our buses and their maintenance," Diaz said.

Last week, PSS received five brand new minivans for the special education program. Diaz said these minivans were bought using funds from last fiscal year. "This will be our last shipment from FTA grants," he said.

The new transit authority office will take over FTA funds starting this fiscal year 2012.

On Tuesday, PSS unveiled a state-of-the-art bus depot in Lower Base that was built using $1.5 million in FTA funds. Diaz is worried how the facility will be maintained, now that no specific allocation has been identified for this purpose.

He will recommend to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan and the Board of Education to start exploring federal assistance from the Office of Insular Affairs.

The CNMI Office of Transit Authority under the Office of the Governor was created in May 2011 with the signing of Public Law 17-43 into law. It is charged with establishing and overseeing a transportation system in the CNMI, and assessing the Commonwealth's transportation needs and developing a viable public transportation system.

Man gets 1 year for beating up elderly man in robbery

» Camacho: There can be no justice without appropriate punishment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday slapped a one-year prison term on Joshua Basaliso, one of the two suspects in the beating and robbing of a 65-year-old masseur.

"There can be no justice without appropriate punishment," said Camacho in rejecting the prosecution's and defense counsel's recommendation for a four-month prison term that Basaliso has already served in jail.

The 20-year-old Basaliso was ordered to serve the maximum sentence of a year in prison, with credit for the time served. He will start serving the rest of his sentence no later than April 21, 2012. He will not be eligible for parole or early release.

Basaliso was also required to pay the maximum fine of $1,000, plus restitution to the victim.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Basaliso with assault and battery, robbery, conspiracy to commit robbery, and disturbing the peace. Basaliso agreed to plead guilty to assault and battery as part of a plea deal. The rest of the charges were dropped. He was represented by counsel Antonio M. Atalig.

Assistant attorney general Eileen Wisor and Atalig had both recommended a sentence of one year in prison, all suspended except for four months with credit for time served and a fine of $100.

Camacho rejected this, saying this would mean that Basaliso will no longer serve another day in prison "for this heinous crime."

Camacho pointed out that Basaliso admitted beating up the elderly victim, who posed no threat to him whatsoever. "[Basaliso] continued punching the old man even after he fell to the ground, badly injured," the judge noted.

Camacho also rejected the government's first plea agreement with Basaliso. That first plea deal attempted to dispose of a robbery charge and a conspiracy to commit robbery charge, both of which carry a maximum sentence of 10 years, with a three-month sentence.

Camacho said he believes imposing a time-served sentence in this case will not give a good message to the community.

Basaliso testified for the government in the trial of his cousin and co-defendant, Nestor Taitano. He admitted beating up and taking the wallet of Chinese national Guoxi Liang in San Antonio on April 2, 2011. Taitano was acquitted and released from jail.

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MOU signed to set up CNMI criminal justice information system

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Picture this: Once a patrol officer pulls over a motorist for traffic violation, that officer will enter the motorist's name into a system and find out if that person has a warrant or is a fugitive and therefore be able to bring that person to justice.

This system of linking up information from one law enforcement agency to another will become a reality as early as this year, officials said Tuesday as they signed a memorandum of understanding to implement a fully developed and effective Criminal Justice Information System, or CJIS.

Once implemented, this system will allow a customs officer at the airport, for example, to have the ability to call up warrants at his or her fingertips if someone is trying to flee the CNMI to escape prosecution.

"Imagine if such a system were in place before the recent tragedies, which have so shaken our communities. Today, we sign a memorandum of understanding showing our commitment to this worthy project," said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said shortly before signing the 11-page MOU in front of law enforcement agency officials and other community leaders on Capital Hill Tuesday afternoon.

Associate Justice Alexandro C. Castro said the timing of the signing of this MOU is perfect.

"The economic downturn here and abroad requires our respective justice system agencies to work together for a better Commonwealth. …For us in the CNMI, let us work together to set up the most effective justice system 'network' in the Western Pacific," he said.

Castro said he looks forward to the day when police officers are able to know within minutes whether a motorist being stopped for a traffic violation has an outstanding warrant; is violating a condition of probation/parole; or violating a temporary restraining order from the family court.

Judge Joseph N. Camacho, chairman of the Criminal Justice Information System, said the CJIS's goal is "to unify all the fragmented parts into one essential and useable system so that the guilty shall not escape justice and the innocent shall be vindicated."

"And to get to where we need to go, we must remove the small and petty things that hold us back. We must abandon the tendency to be territorial among co-equal branches, departments, and agencies," he said.

He cited the three objectives of CJIS: To have CJIS up and running within a year; to ensure that each department and agency has the computer hardware and software to be able to access CJIS; and to ensure that there is a CJIS infrastructure in place to provide stability and continued support in the coming years.

Twenty of the 22 expected signatories to the MOU signed the document Tuesday.

The signing of the MOU came nine years after a law came into effect with the promise of a more integrated, modern, and secure criminal justice system.

Church 360 to host free movie night

Church 360, a contemporary non-denominational Christian church on Saipan, will be hosting a free movie night on Saturday, April 14, at 7pm.

Worship leader Kayla Wood said yesterday that the movie night will feature *Courageous*, an independent Christian drama film about four "confident and focused" law enforcement officers who "face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood."

Directed by Alex Kendrick, the movie is the fourth film from Sherwood Pictures, the moviemaking ministry of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Georgia.

"We love supporting films that promote faith and family. That's hard to find these days; so when we find a good one, we spread the word," said Wood.

According to Wood, they will offer the free movie night "theater style" and will be serving popcorn to moviegoers. Although popcorn and water will be provided, moviegoers also have the option to bring their own food and non-alcoholic beverages.

She noted, though, that those interested to watch the movie would need tickets. "There are a set number of tickets available due to limited seating in the church so tickets are given first-come, first-serve," said Wood.

Tickets can be reserved by calling 888-2116. They can be picked up on Saturday morning between 9am and 11:30am at Church 360 on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

For more information, call 888-2116 or email info@church360saipan.org. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tanapag school PTSA meeting today

Tanapag Elementary School will have a PTSA meeting today, April 12, 2012, at 5:30pm in the cafeteria. For more information contact the main office at 664-3425, 26, 27. ***(PR)***

MHS report cards out today

Marianas High School will be distributing the 3rd Quarter report cards today, April 12, from 4pm to 6pm in the counseling office. Students will be released at 1pm on this day to allow the school time to prepare for the event. For more information, call the main office at 237-3206. ***(PR)***

OES PTSA meeting today

Oleai Elementary School will have a PTSA meeting today, April 12, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. ***(PR)***

SSHS report cards out today

Saipan Southern High School Term 3 report cards are scheduled to be picked up today, April 12 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm in the counseling office. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents and guardians visit. All students will be released at 1:05pm. ***(PR)***

Upcoming events at Kagman High School

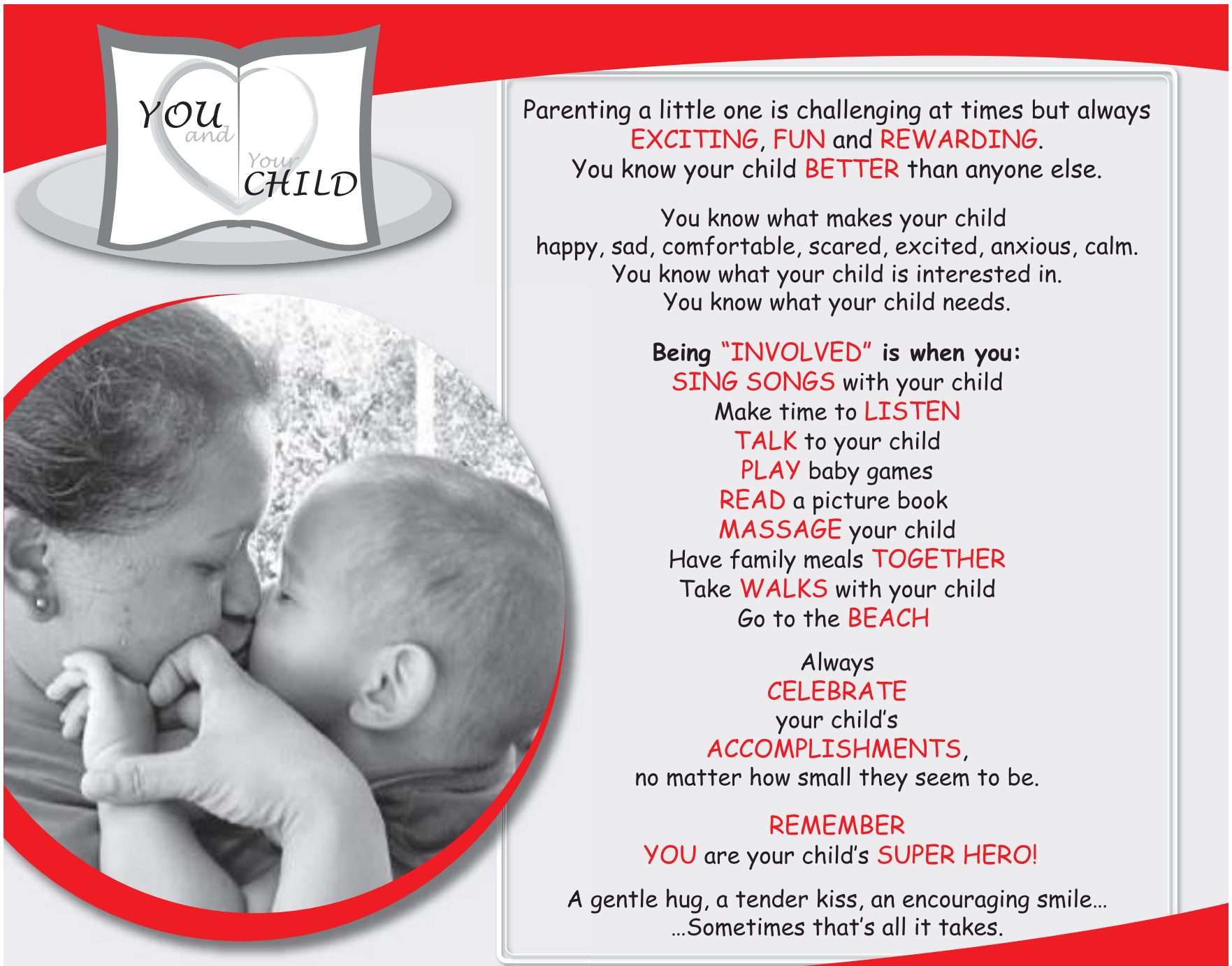
- **April 11-12:** Star Reading & Star Math Assessment
- **April 13:** Report card distribution day! Regular bell schedule; no half day. Third-period teachers will distribute to their students. Students who are absent on this day can pick up their report card from their counselor. Parents/guardians who would like to meet with their child's teacher(s) or counselor may call KHS main office to make an appointment at 237-3907/3868 or e-mail kagmanhs@gmail.com
- **April 23-27:** SAT 10

Saipan waters get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag. The division of analyzed a total of 12 samples of Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Guam soldiers to mark US. Army 237th birthday

The U.S. Army community on Guam will be celebrating the U.S. Army's 237th birthday with a gala on June 15. A committee of soldiers from the Guam Army National Guard, Army Reserve, active duty and retirees has been formed to plan and coordinate the celebration of the 237th United States Army Birthday Ball, to be held at the Sheraton Laguna Guam Resort. For more information about the event, contact CWO3 Vincent Dela Cruz at 735-0454 or email vince.delacruz@us.army.mil and CWO2 Bernard Aguon at 735-0418 or email b.aguon@us.army.mil, between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. ***(PR)***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PLAY baby games
READ a picture book
MASSAGE your child
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Go to the BEACH
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your child's
ACCOMPLISHMENTS,
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Fugitive from DC area added to FBI's 10 Most Wanted

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced yesterday the addition of Eric Justin Toth, aka David Bussone, to its 10 Most Wanted Fugitives list. Toth, a former private school teacher and camp counselor, is being sought for his alleged production and possession of child pornography. The investigation into Toth began in June 2008 after pornographic images were found on a school camera that had been in his possession.

Toth is 6'3" and weighs approximately 155 pounds with brown hair, green eyes, and a medium complexion. He also has a mole under his left eye. Toth was born on Feb. 13, 1982.

Toth

Toth has often been described as a computer expert and has demonstrated an above-average knowledge regarding computers, the use of the Internet, and security awareness. He has the ability to integrate into various socio-economic classes and is an expert at social engineering. Toth possesses an educational background conducive to gaining employment in fields having a connection to children. He attended Cornell University for a year and then transferred to Purdue University, where he graduated with a degree in education. He may advertise online as a tutor or male nanny.

Despite being featured on multiple local news reports as well as the *America's Most Wanted* television program and the FBI website, Toth has eluded capture. Since June 2008, Toth is believed to have traveled to Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. It is also believed that he lived in Arizona as recently as 2009.

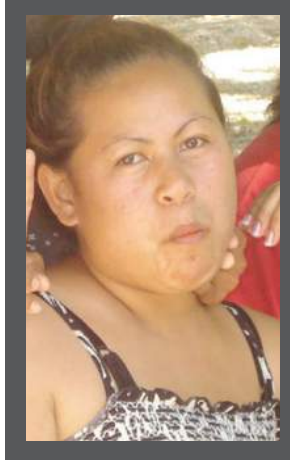
Eric Toth is the 495th person to be placed on the FBI's 10 Most Wanted Fugitives list, which was established in March 1950. Since then, 465 fugitives have been apprehended or located, 153 of them as a result of citizen cooperation.

The FBI is offering a reward of up to $100,000 for information leading directly to the arrest of Toth. ***(FBI)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 21st birthday to Sophia Geisinger! We love you and wish you more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, and Darin.



Belated happy birthday going out to Theillia K. Arurang who celebrated her special day on April 9, 2012. May the Lord above continue to bless you with many more healthy and happy years to come. Greetings coming from your kids and husband.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jorgensen: Munson willing to mediate unnamed retirees' suit

Attorney Bruce Jorgensen and co-counsel Robert M. Hatch disclosed that their clients agree to former federal court chief judge Alex R. Munson mediating the settlement negotiations in their lawsuit against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and NMI Retirement Fund.

Jorgensen and Hatch, on behalf of two unnamed retirees, filed on Friday a notice of consent to mediation in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The lawyers said in the notice that, on March 28, 2012, all parties in the case came before the court for a telephonic status conference.

Jorgensen and Hatch said U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood informed the parties that she had reached out to Judge Munson regarding any potential interest in mediating or otherwise engaging in settlement discussions.

The lawyers said Munson responded that he would be available if the conditions were appropriate and all parties were willing.

Jorgensen and Hatch said all attorneys stated that while they were open to mediation and settlement discussions in general, they had not discussed particulars with their respective clients.

They said Judge Tydingco-Gatewood then told all attorneys to speak with their clients and report whether their clients were opposed or agreeable to mediation with Munson.

The lawyers said that Tydingco-Gatewood also questioned whether the court has jurisdiction to order mediation while a motion is pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Jorgensen and Hatch said the filing of the motion in the Ninth Circuit does not divest the U.S. District Court for the NMI of jurisdiction over this matter.

Jorgensen, on behalf of two unnamed retirees, filed the lawsuit against Fitial and the Fund over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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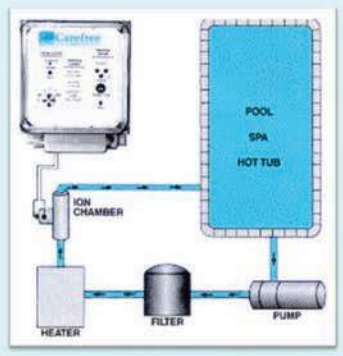

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Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	**Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV**
vs.	
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.	**NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on November 30, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot 008 H 19, containing an area of 226 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 008 H 00, the original of which was recorded on March 1, 1971, as Document No. 699 at Land Registry, Saipan. **This location is identified as the former Tapo Shopping building along Beach Road across from the former Pacific Gardenia Building including the commercial building.** The lot is located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on June 7, 2012, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) Withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 28th day of March, 2012.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

NMI touts golf to Chinese golfers

The beautiful courses of the Northern Mariana Islands were brought before the burgeoning China golf travel market last month at China Golf Show in Beijing.

In collaboration with Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Travel, the Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the show to showcase tourism and golf products on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"The China Golf Show is the only dedicated trading and sourcing event covering the entire supply chain in China, which is also endorsed by the PGA World Alliance and other leading associations," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Most visitors to our booth showed great interest in golf in the Marianas."

The first day of the show held March 16-18, 2012, was open to professional visitors, while the following two days were open to the public. The show offered a cost-effective platform to share information with potential golfers, establish destination brand image and allow the Northern Marianas team to meet buyers, trade professionals, and media. Century Tours and Tinian Dynasty Travel also shared their golf tour packages and destination brochures, as did most golf courses and many resorts in the Northern Marianas.

During the China Golf Show, MVA also presented at a media event organized by the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy on March 16, 2012, at the China National Convention Center.

Minister of Consular Affairs William Zarit opened the event with remarks, followed by brief presentations by the MVA, Guam Visitors Bureau, PGA of America, GolfTripGenius.com, and other western U.S. destinations. The MVA's presentation highlighted close proximity and the selling points of golf in Saipan and Rota. Participating media also received a Northern Marianas golf press kit. ***(MVA)***

'Trashion' at Saipan Grand Hotel

To support the Division of Environmental Quality and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance's advocacy of creating community awareness of "Recycle, Re-Use, and Reduce (The 3Rs)," the Saipan Grand Hotel will host a fashion show on April 14, 2012, at 6:30pm at its lobby.

Aptly called "Trashion," the event has an added twist of models donning wearable pieces from an amazing array of non-clothing recycled items that would otherwise find their way to the dump.

This is where art, creativity, imagination, and sustainability meet in honor of Earth Day and Environmental Month.

An annual tradition spearheaded by DEQ and participated in by designers and modeled by high school students, the event has generated community involvement as well. From the materials to be used to the skillfulness of the designs, all chipped in to create wearable works of art. The show is open to the public.

This also coincides with the hotel's weekly food fair. ***(PR)***

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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re Estate of GEORGE A. MANGLONA Deceased,	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1061**
	THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 11, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of the Estate of George A. Manglona in and to the following property:

1. Lot 002 T 25. The Estate owns an area of 921 square meters or less, in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 27, 2042.
2. Lot 114 T 16. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to lease expiring on September 18, 2044
3. Lot 057 T18. This lot contains an area of 10,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
4. Lot 006 T 186. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in this lot, which expires on June 18, 2046. No further rental in due under the lease.
5. Lot 008 T 85. This lot contains an area of 901 square meters. The Estate owns a leasehold interest in the lot, which expires on July 21, 2047. No further rent is due.
6. Lot 006 T 17. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a lease expiring on October 8, 2049.
7. Lot 035 T 18. The Estate owns an undivided 992 square meters of this lot, in fee simple.
8. Lot 035 T 19. This lot contains an area of 4,000 square meters, and is owned by the Estate in fee simple.
9. Lot 114 T 18. The Estate owns this lot in fee simple, subject to a prepaid lease expiring on September 18, 2044.

All of these properties are situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. All sales are subject to court approval.

Preliminary title reports are available for inspection at the office of the undersigned, by appointment only.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, May 4, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 5th day of April, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122
Attorney for Administrator

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP12-OPA-057

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 03, 2012 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S CREDIT UNION FOR THE YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009, 2010 AND 2011"

THE AUDIT GUIDELINES AND SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE PUBLIC AUDITOR'S MAIN OFFICE AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, EXCEPT HOLIDAYS, OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MR. ROSAURO D. ZAPANTA, ANALYST MANAGER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR BY FACSIMILE TO (670) 322-7812.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ MICHAEL PAI
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ LARRISA C. LARSON
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular meeting on Friday, April 13, 2012 at 8:00am, Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
   a. March 27, 2012

II. Public Comments
III. Communications
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Director
2. Managers
3. Human Resource Officer
4. Finance Director
5. Center Representatives

V. Action Items
1. Approval of FY 2012-2013 Basic and T&TA Grant Application

VI. Old Business
1. Child Outcome Report Analysis and Action Plan
2. Staff Qualification/Staff Waiver Updates

VII. New Business
1. Notification of FY 2012-2013 Triennial Review
2. Selection Criteria Worksheet (to reflect on the new Federal Income Guidelines)

VIII. Miscellaneous Matters
IX. Executive Session
X. Next Meeting
XI. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Naydine Aguon at (670) 664-3751; several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinson F. Sablan
Chairperson

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Apr. 12, 1999

MVA to support CPA in campaign
Marianas Visitors Authority board chairman Dave M. Sablan has pledged to assist the Commonwealth Ports Authority in enticing cruise vessels to bring in tourists to the CNMI. Sablan said he will meet with various travel wholesalers in Japan to sell the Northern Marianas as a destination for Japanese travelers who prefer to go on a cruise. Since Japan is encouraging school children to travel abroad, Sablan said tapping this huge market would greatly help the ailing tourism economy.

BOE repeals liability on employee
The Public School System will use the procurement rule of the CNMI Code to govern employee's conduct after the Board of Education repealed its liability policy, which was considered by many as harsh. According to PSS legal counsel Tim Connor, because of the strict language used in the Board policy, PSS employees refused to sign documents and paralyzed the procurement process. The policy makes an employee liable for violating the procurement procedure and does not give room for escape even if they acted in good faith.

Apr. 12, 2000

House to revive discussion on school voucher
The House of Representatives is likely to revive discussion on the school voucher or choice program after the initial proposal more than four years ago drew strong opposition from the Board of Education. Rep. Brigida Ichihara, chair of the Education Committee, said yesterday she will meet with educators and representatives of the community to feel the public pulse on instituting the program as part of school reforms in the CNMI. On a visit to Washington D.C., the lawmaker, along with the rest of the nine House members, met yesterday with think-tankers from the Institute for Justice on education reforms.

Govt urged to explore potential of Northern Islands
With the rich natural resources of the Northern Islands, the CNMI government should consider carrying out infrastructure development on the chain of remote volcanic islands when the residents are finally allowed to go back so that the people are given the chance to earn income aside from subsistence fishing and farming. A simple resort development which will allow guests to enjoy the natural beauty of the island will favor ecotourism enthusiast who would love adventure trips, fishing and scuba diving, said Lynn Knight, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Knight said the people of the Northern Islands should be supported in their request to grant them homesteads in the place they consider home as well as help them make a living once they are allowed to go back.

Apr. 12, 2001

CUC: Works on 25 OPA reports ongoing
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is yet to submit sets of regulating guidelines for the accurate operation of the public firm as auditing of questionable dealings continue. To date, at least 25 cases remain open including unliquidated advances of CUC employees and implementing guidelines for the regulation of official representation. Based on the Office of Public Auditor's Report on Agencies' Implementation of Audit Recommendations, the utility corporation is yet to provide the OPA a copy of regulations on proper monitoring of advances and business entertainment expenses. On OPA's Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control and on Compliance Over Financial Reporting Based Upon the Audit Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards, at least 24 cases remain delinquent with recommendations yet to be submitted.

Teno turns down changes to power sufficiency law
Governor Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday advised the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to comply with the provisions of the Energy Sufficiency Act of 2000 by passing on the contract for Saipan's 60-megawatt power plant to the next lowest and responsible bidder. Mr. Tenorio apparently balks initial plans made by some CUC officials to solicit new sets of bids for the multi-million-dollar project, which has been in the offing for several years now. The governor pointed out that Public Law 12-1 contains blanker provisions that encompass the entire project, including total cost, procurement and awarding of the contract which was not limited to Enron.

Fitial raises DLNR secretary salary from $48K to $54K

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial raised the salary of Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Arnold I. Palacios from $48,000 to $54,000, which is what other Cabinet secretaries also receive.

Palacios' predecessor was receiving $80,000 but that was mainly because Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz holds a doctorate in veterinary medicine, said press secretary Angel Demapan on Tuesday.

Palacios, in a brief interview Tuesday afternoon, said the $54,000 still does not include the 20-percent salary cut and unpaid holidays because of the austerity measures.

He said he thinks he's one of the lowest-paid Cabinet secretaries.

Demapan said the average salary of Cabinet members is $50,000, with the exception of a few that are receiving $52,000 to $54,000 per annum, depending on statutory cap.

Palacios

The press secretary said that Palacios and two other Cabinet secretaries are the lowest-paid at $48,000 each.

"The disparity in their salaries was something the administration previously addressed in past budget submissions, but it was always omitted from appropriation measures previously passed by the Legislature," he said.

Palacios, a former House speaker during the 16th Legislature, was confirmed and sworn in as DLNR secretary in February. Prior to his election as a lawmaker, he had already worked at DLNR for 18 years, mostly as Division of Fish and Wildlife director.

The governor sent the Legislature a March 28 certification for an annual salary in excess of $50,000 for Palacios. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Docomo Pacific is 'Micronesia' sponsor for arts festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Telecommunications provider Docomo Pacific yesterday made a donation to support the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

James Nelson, general manager for Saipan operations, and other Docomo Pacific staff presented the $2,000 check donation and $1,000 worth of prepaid phones as raffle prizes to deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Arts Council.

Yesterday's donation makes Docomo Pacific a "Micronesia" sponsor for the annual event. This sponsorship level is given to individuals or organizations that give monetary or in-kind donations worth $2,001 to $4,999.

"Docomo Pacific supports the Arts Council in hosting the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival because we recognize the importance of keeping arts and culture alive in the community. We look forward to supporting the festival for years to come," said Nelson.

Nelson, former manager of the Guam Visitors Bureau, underscored the need for community involvement in the promotion, preservation, and perpetuation of arts and culture in the CNMI. "The Flame Tree Arts Festival is one avenue to do it," he said.

Arts Council's Hocog said that Docomo Pacific's sponsorship participation "is a great response to the challenge given by the Arts Council and the festival committee to the community—to 'Be A Part' of the promotion, preservation, and perpetuation of arts and culture in the CNMI."

"With the support of Docomo Pacific and other sponsors, we hope to have a Flame Tree Arts Festival that everyone can be proud of," he added.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Docomo Pacific staff led by James Nelson, general manager for Saipan operations, center, hands the $2,000 check donation to deputy secretary Rhonda Nogis of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, third left, and executive director Angel S. Hocog of the Arts Council, left, at the Docomo Pacific office in Gualo Rai yesterday. The telecommunications provider also made an in-kind donation worth $1,000 in support of the 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival.

The festival's other sponsors include Bridge Capital, Delta Air Lines, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and IT&E.

The 31st Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival is slated for April 20 to 22 at the Civic Center Park in Susupe.

The three-day festival will feature a wide selection of artwork for sale by CNMI registered and non-registered artists, traditional or contemporary, using different mediums.

The event will also showcase presentations from local and guest performing groups and musicians, art demonstrations, and an array of festival food favorites.

For more information, visit the Arts Council next to the post office in Capital Hill or call 322-9982 or 83.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Historic Preservation
Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
P.O. Box 500090 CK, Airport Road
Saipan, MP 96950

TEL: 664-2120-25
FAX: 664-2139

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
Division of Historic Preservation
Historic Preservation Fund Grant
Proposed Work Goals for FY 2012

The Division of Historic Preservation (HPO) under the auspices of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs anticipates the receipt of approximately $410,831 from the U.S. National Park Service for Fiscal Year 2012. This funding is provided to support the Commonwealth's Historic Preservation program and related community activities.

Prior to the submission of the grant application, the Division of Historic Preservation Office would like to solicit the community's input or comments on what priorities, concerns, projects, and activities it would like to undertake relating to Historic Preservation.

We need your comments particularly on such aspects as:

1.) What do you think we should be focusing more of this year?
2.) What particular community projects do you believe is important that we should try to fund?
3.) What topics should we focus when publishing our archeological books or?
4.) What particular areas do you want our office to concentrate on surveying or in the identification of cultural materials?
5.) What aspects of the program do you think we should strengthen?

The following are examples of work goals that are proposed for FY 2012. We would like to know what you think about them.

- Conducting Historical Architecture windshield survey, Intensive archaeological survey and preparation of NRHP Nomination
- Reprinting all HPO's archeological and ethnographic collection
- Implementing and maintaining its Geographic Information System
- Nominating significant sites to the National Register of Historic Places
- Educate the CNMI's children about historic preservation through school visits, lectures and field trips.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their comments to the Division of Historic Preservation Office in writing no later than, April 20, 2012. Written comments should be address to Mr. Melvin L. O. Faisao, CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer or Ms. Mertie T. Kani, Acting Director, Division of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Community and Cultural Affairs, P.O. Box 500090 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be faxed to our office at 664-2139 or sent through e-mail to mlof65@gmail.com or mtkani@cnmihpo.net. Please visit our office located on Airport Road, between the former MVA Office and the LSG Building should you have any questions.

In addition to submitted written comments, our office would also like to undertake a formal public hearing to listen to your concerns and ideas about the historic preservation grant and possible projects or activities. The following is a schedule in this effect:

Island	Location	Date	Time
Rota	Round House	04/09/12	6:30 p.m.
Tinian	Mayor's Conference Room	04/11/12	6:30 p.m.
Saipan	Multi Purpose	04/17/12	6:30 p.m.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. We look forward to hearing your comments and ideas. Your input and participation is extremely valuable.

/S/ Melvin L. O. Faisao
CNMI State Historic Preservation Officer

Concurred by: /S/ MELVIN L. O. FAISAO
SECRETARY, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

For more inquiry, contact Mr. Faisao @ 664-2576 or Mertie Kani @ 664-2124

Missing your family
Send money overseas through Western Union
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GO! PREPAID
Simply send three Western Union Money Transfer transactions during the promotion period, and you are instantly eligible to claim your free $5 Docomo Pacific pre-paid cellular phone card.
Customers from Saipan, Tinian and Rota are eligible.
This promotion is valid from March 4 to May 5, 2012.
Reward cell card can be claimed as follows:
Saipan - Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at MITA Travel
Tinian - Monday to Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Tinian Fuel Services
Rota - Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Rota Merchandising Corp.
For more information about this promo, please visit the nearest Western Union outlet.
WESTERN UNION
moving money for better

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

How would Prof. Obama grade President Obama?

"I was a constitutional law professor, which means unlike the current president I actually respect the Constitution."—Barack Obama, March 30, 2007

Five years on, that claim made by presidential candidate Barack Obama has begun to sound a little shaky.

First there was his administration's tacit embrace of the unitary executive claims of the Bush administration to wage a semi-secret war-by-drone. Now the Obama administration has expanded Bushian secrecy by refusing to confirm or deny the existence of CIA drone operations about which it previously boasted.

And last Monday came the president's startlingly inept claim that the "unelected" Supreme Court would be taking an "unprecedented, extraordinary step" if it overturns a law (i.e., health care reform) duly passed by Congress.

Professor Obama surely would have known better.

Mr. Obama does not ordinarily misspeak. Indeed, he parses his language excruciatingly carefully. His remarks about the court on Monday were so out of character that they suggest one of two explanations:

One: He was frustrated by the justices' questioning in the previous week's oral arguments on challenges to the Affordable Care Act. The justices' questions suggested they didn't understand the issues at hand. The famously verbose Justice Antonin Scalia seemed alarmed that he might have to read a 2,700-page bill.

Two: The president has decided to run against activist judges in the fall campaign. This is something Republicans ordinarily do, but there's nothing to say a Democrat can't do it, particularly as Supreme Court justices tend to be a president's most enduring legacy.

On Tuesday, Attorney General Eric Holder tried to walk back his boss's unfortunate statement from the day before. He acknowledged the court's right to interpret laws, but asserted that they are "fairly deferential" when it comes to overturning statutes passed by Congress. Perhaps, but it is not unknown, surely not unprecedented and wholly in keeping with the intent of the framers of the Constitution.

The war on terror has seen the military and the CIA collaborate in ways not seen since Operation Phoenix in Vietnam. When CIA director Leon Panetta was named Defense Secretary last summer, he was replaced at the CIA by Gen. David H. Petraeus, the country's best-known solider.

Both the Joint Special Operations Center and the CIA maintain overlapping "kill lists." Both have fleets of Predator and Reaper drone aircraft. Mr. Obama himself openly discussed the program in January in an Internet forum.

But officially the program doesn't exist. That's the excuse the CIA is using to avoid disclosing records in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. To acknowledge its existence could reveal critical secrets, you see, even though Mr. Panetta joked last October that as Defense Secretary, "I have a helluva lot more weapons available to me in this job than I had at the CIA. Although the Predators aren't that bad."

Lots of yucks, not much transparency. If this were Con Law 101, the administration would flunk.

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THAT'S ONE STEP FOR A SMALL MAN, ONE GIANT THREAT AGAINST SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN...
PERHAPS TRYING TO PORTRAY THIS TO THE WORLD AS A 'SPACE LAUNCH' IS GETTING LOST IN TRANSLATION...
N. KOREA
CHINA WORLD HERALD
KOTERBA

Saying goodbye to Greece—as hordes of young people do the same

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him e-mail at jskass@tribune.com.*

ATHENS—I traveled to Greece to see the land of my fathers, to see its beauty and its economic crisis firsthand.

But as I arrived, others were leaving.

Especially Greece's young people, suffering from unemployment that hovers around 50 percent.

"They go to Australia or Turkey or wherever they can find work," says my first cousin Sophia, a mother of two daughters who is fearful of the future.

Every day here, as a handful on the hard left throw rocks in the streets, the stories get worse and worse. Many involve young people leaving home.

Everybody knows about some family that has lost a son or daughter to the swift currents of the diaspora, the young people leaving for jobs far away. That is, if they can find jobs. In a culture that prizes education above all, the most highly educated and the most talented are being lured away—and there is no shortage of highly educated and competent people here, top-flight engineers and computer programmers and so on.

And the others?

"A man was on a morning TV show from Australia saying he needed taxi drivers," Sophia said. "Thousands applied that very morning. To do what? To leave home and become taxi drivers in a foreign land among strangers?"

She put her hand to her mouth. Her eyes were on the verge of spilling.

"We are not giving up, but the situation is this: Everyone is hurting. And every day, more young people leave. The best of the nation leave, if they can," she said. "Your father had to leave, so many young men left in the 1950s. Do we have to go through this again? This is terrible."

And as some leave, others rush in. A wave of uncontrolled immigration from the poorest nations of Asia and Africa streams through, taking advantage of the country's thousands of miles of coastline. And no real help comes from the European Union to stop it.

Some neighborhoods in Athens like Omonia Square are jammed, and prostitution, narcotics and street crime are on the increase. This allows the fringe politicians both on the hard left and the hard right some easy rhetorical targets, and what's remarkable is that despite political differences, the rhetoric from communists and nationalists is increasingly similar in tone and coloration.

Here's what happened. The mainstream politicians lost the people's trust after bribing them with their own money in a Ponzi scheme where public benefits were ladled out for votes until the money was gone.

Think of an entire nation run by the Chicago Democratic machine, with help from the equally suspect white-shoe Republicans from Illinois, all of them eating well and feeding their friends. And as they ate, the people numbly footed the bill year after year, assured by the experts from the school of common wisdom and the machine mouthpieces that the important thing was "to get things done."

They got things done all right. They amassed their own power and wealth while growing a government they could not pay for. In both Greece and Illinois, unsustainable economies have inspired an exodus of business and human capital.

The pain of Greece's corrupted capitalism becomes ever sharper when it's contrasted with the booming economy of neighboring Turkey. That's where I'm headed next, to Istanbul and Ankara, to see an increasingly confident people, where jobs are being created and one of the biggest worries is whether the economy is growing too quickly.

But before leaving Greece, I am reminded that even with its problems, the people plod forward, including Adriana Kaldis Tolis, formerly of the Northwest Side of Chicago. She and her husband and sons run the Tolis Sweet Shop in a working-class area near Athens.

Yes, they sell delicious stuff—and, yes, I made a serious study of her wares. It seemed that every customer was picking up a loaf of the sweet bread called tsoureki, which is sold during the Easter season.

I'm partial to tsoureki toast and tea and feta cheese, my traditional breakfast on Easter Sunday morning as I sit out in my backyard, roasting that lamb. But since I'll still be traveling Sunday when the Greek Orthodox Church celebrates that holy day, I won't be able to do the Easter lamb at home.

"Feta on tsoureki?" said Adriana.

And why not? What's wrong with sweet and salty?

But enough of toast. Adriana friended me on Facebook months ago, imploring me to come to Greece to tell the story of the ruined economy. She also had a message.

"Hey, Chicago!" she said. "Hello to the Northwest Side and to everybody back home."

"Has it been tough? Sure," said Adriana. "Sales are down about 20 percent, but I think we can make it. My sons are working here, and they've built a little factory to make everything you see. And we all live together, the Greek way, so that cuts down on expenses. We'll get through it."

Adriana says that what she's most concerned about is the people losing confidence.

"People are down," she said. "This country had been through so much. But hey, life goes on. One of my sons is getting married in a few weeks. Everybody from Chicago is coming. I'm so excited. This is what I mean. Life goes on.

"People in America see the rock throwers on TV, yes, but do they see the weddings?"

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A ticking clock on Syria

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

The interventionist liberals of the Obama administration were a doleful bunch last week. It was the 20th anniversary of the siege of Sarajevo, when a Bosnian Serb army battered a city full of civilians with artillery while the United States issued ineffective cries of alarm. The comparison with this year's massacres in Syria was painfully apt.

Now, as then, the United Nations Security Council has asked both sides to stop shooting, to no great effect. Now, as then, the United States and its allies are rejecting the idea of military intervention as too difficult, too risky, too likely to add to the violence instead of ending it.

In Bosnia, it took the United States more than three years and many massacres to decide that diplomatic measures and sanctions weren't enough. But finally, in August 1995, then-President Clinton ordered airstrikes against the Bosnian Serbs; that turned the tide of the war and led to peace negotiations within weeks.

But there's one big difference between the situation in Bosnia and that in Syria: This time, the clock is moving faster.

Although the Obama administration still hopes to avoid military intervention in Syria and is publicly backing a U.N. effort to broker a cease-fire this week, it has also stepped deliberately onto a slippery slope that is likely to lead to more intervention.

Unlike with Bosnia, where the United States and its allies initially sought to be neutral in a civil war, this time the U.S. has already chosen a side: It has called on Syria's dictator, Bashar Assad, to step down, and it has embraced the opposition Syrian National Council.

At a meeting in Istanbul last week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced an escalation of U.S. aid to the opposition. In public, she pointed to a doubling of medical and other humanitarian aid, plus the provision of communication equipment. Less publicly, officials confirmed that the new package also includes "non-lethal" help that will go to the Free Syrian Army, the newly formed opposition armed forces, including night-vision goggles and U.S. intelligence information such as early warnings of Syrian troop movements.

And while the United States has decided not to provide weapons to the rebels, it isn't objecting to military funding or arms shipments from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and other Arab states that would like to see Assad fall.

In the short term, the administration says it still hopes former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan can arrange a cease-fire, and that Assad will—improbably—decide to step down.

But I couldn't find anyone in the administration last week who believed that outcome was likely. For one thing, Assad believes he's winning; there's no reason for him to surrender now. The best hope seems to be that the government crackdown will become less lethal.

If the pace of the killing slows, that could buy time: time for economic sanctions to undermine the regime, time to cajole Russia to switch sides and help pull the rug out from Assad, but also time for the opposition and its new army to organize themselves into a more effective force.

If those measures fail to bring Assad down, the administration appears divided on how quickly to move toward military intervention. The Pentagon is reluctant to get involved in another war, as the Pentagon usually is. Obama's national security adviser, Tom Donilon, has also weighed in against any post-Libya temptation to "militarize" another problem. Clinton's State Department has sounded the most hawkish notes—in part, perhaps, because it's Clinton who has delivered most of the administration's public declarations that Assad must go.

But even the administration's humanitarian hawks don't think the moment for U.S. or NATO military intervention has arrived yet.

They'd like the U.N. Security Council to give its blessing first, or—if Russia and China continue to resist—at least NATO. They'd like the Syrian opposition to be better organized, with more assurance that military aid wouldn't fall into the hands of radical Islamists. They'd like Turkey to establish safe havens for the opposition along its border with Syria.

Eventually, though, the question of military intervention will change from if to when. The United States is already a little bit pregnant—already committed to helping Assad fall. It's merely looking for the least violent, lowest cost way to get there.

In Bosnia, it took more than three years for the United States to overcome its reservations and resort to military force. But that was a generation ago, when the idea of humanitarian intervention in a civil war was still novel.

Immigration reform left an orphan

By GEORGE W. LIEBMANN
THE BALTIMORE SUN

If the Obama administration proceeds to electoral doom, blame rests on its surrender to its financiers and campaign organizers: Wall Street and public employee and construction unions. A Democratic administration in control of Congress which for two years left hedge fund managers' "carried interest" untouched while not providing a Civilian Conservation Corps or payroll tax moratorium for young workers to relieve youth unemployment has something wrong with it.

Meanwhile, the bizarre Republican schemes for tax relief have in common a determination not to burden "the donor community." The state of the two parties is a reflection of the nationalization of campaign finance by the 1973 "reform" legislation suppressing individual local contributions in favor of "bundling" by national interest groups.

Real problems go undebated because those who pay the piper have no interest in them, fostering national deadlock while precluding local action. There is what the late Paul Freund called "apoplexy at the center and anemia at the extremities." Despite postwar European tax reforms, no candidate proposes any sharing of revenue sources with states.

Most Republican candidates embrace nativism and deny the states any role in relaxing immigration restrictions and revising the "drug war," as do the Obama administration and its union backers with their hostility to any guest worker program. The Republicans have lashed themselves to the law enforcement establishment in insisting on criminalization rather than testing as a drug-control strategy, lately joined by the Obama administration, oblivious to the fact that drugs and related criminal records have negated, for much of the black population, gains that would otherwise have resulted from the civil rights movement.

Yet "some play must be left for the joints in the machine." State experimentation with decriminalization of marijuana and drug testing would relieve burdens on prisons and carnage in our cities and on the Mexican border, and it might be more effective than the criminal law.

State guest worker initiatives like the Utah law fostered by a Republican administration and the Mormon and Catholic churches (and instantly denounced by nativists, liberal advocacy groups and the Obama administration) have much to be said for them. Those quick to assert a federal monopoly over immigration forget that until the 1920s, more than 20 states allowed resident aliens to vote, and at least a half-dozen states in the Upper Midwest had commissioners of immigration recruiting immigrants.

Congressional power over naturalization was then exercised to permit state judges to conduct naturalization ceremonies and to determine compliance with the five-year residency requirement. Assimilation was fostered by state English literacy requirements and related educational programs. The extent of federal preemption depends on the precise terms of federal statutes, as the Supreme Court recently reminded us in upholding Arizona's requirement that employers resort to a federal computer system to check immigration status.

It is rank hypocrisy to wink at the presence of 10 million guest workers. Subject at any time to summary deportation, they find it difficult to buy houses, obtain mortgages, start businesses, open bank accounts or work outside an ever-growing underground economy and the drug trade. How a nation that affects to value private property and free enterprise benefits from this state of affairs is hard to understand.

No good explanation has been furnished either by Republican nativists or the Obama administration and its union allies for hostility toward guest worker programs, which recognize that historically many (and in some ethnic groups, most) migrants desire eventually to return to their native countries. The Republicans believe, not without reason, that the administration's quest for total amnesty is driven not by humanitarian concern but by a desire to swell the electoral rolls.

Foreign nations have also fostered local "old age clubs" to discharge functions assumed here by state bureaucracies, have encouraged accessory apartments to allow families to assume greater responsibility for elder care, have "chartered" all state schools to foster common sense and local and parental control, and have developed systems of private land assembly of value to our inner cities. But major campaign contributors do not care, and their beneficiaries and the national media wear earplugs.

George W. Liebmann, the author of the books Neighborhood Futures *and* The Last American Diplomat: John D. Negroponte and the Changing Face of U.S. Diplomacy. *Readers may send him email at george.liebmann2@verizon.net. He wrote this for the* Baltimore Sun.

Whaddya zinc? Let's kill the penny

By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst is a member of the Newsday *editorial board.*

"O Canada," how did such a great big loonie zone ever get so sensible?

The loonie, of course, is the nickname of the Canadian dollar—which is pretty strong, by the by. Just like the Canadian banking system, unlike some others I prefer not to name.

It turns out that bilingualism is a pretty good thing as well, making people smarter and more resistant to dementia. Many Canadians speak both English and French, admittedly with weird accents, and perhaps this is one source of the mysterious northern advantage. Don't even get me started on the Canadian health system, which is better and cheaper than ours. (Then again, so is nearly everyone else's.)

The latest crushing advance for the juggernaut of rationality next door is the abolition of pennies. That's right, Canada is simply doing away with them this fall, saving the government 11 million loonies—that's about 11 million smackers, American—each year.

Nobody's measured the mental health benefit to average Canadians, but I'll wager it's big. Pennies, like most coins, are a pain in the neck, only more so because they're worthless. Canada thus joins a growing list of no-nonsense nations that have abolished the one-cent coin, including Australia, Britain, New Zealand and Norway.

The Canadians noticed that their penny—made largely of steel—was costing them 1.6 cents to produce, which of course was ridiculous. Not to mention that it's only worth 5 percent of its value in 1858, when it was introduced. In other words, it won't buy a darned thing, so why bother?

Here in the United States, the penny also costs more than a penny to produce, but we do everything in a big way. Coinupdate.com, a website for collectors, figures it costs us 2.4 cents to make each one. (Maybe we can save a few bucks by getting the Canadians to make them for us.)

Countries are supposed to enjoy a little windfall from issuing currency; the difference between the cost of producing a coin or bill and the face value is known as "seignorage." But in this case, Uncle Sam gets negative seignorage. In economics, the term for this is "insane."

But eliminating the penny just isn't the American way. For any Canadians who might be reading this and somehow haven't had their fill of schadenfreude in connection with us, American pennies are made largely of zinc. And in this country we have the zinc lobby.

But in fairness, getting rid of the penny might make us more dependent on the nickel (mostly copper), which could be disastrous. Producing a nickel costs the government (are you ready for this?) more than 11 cents. And we wonder why Washington can't cut spending. It's like the old joke: They lose a little on each one but make it up in the volume. So the nickel should go, too, although I'll admit it will make tipping a lot harder for me.

If you're worried you'll somehow get gouged absent America's most insignificant coin, direct your eyes once again northward. The Canadians are about to solve all this neatly.

Cash transactions will be rounded to the nearest 5 cents, but everything else (credit card purchases etc.) will be calculated down to the cent, just as it always was. People will be allowed to keep using pennies if they want—that Canadian tolerance again!—even though the government would prefer that folks turn them in for scrap, at which point they will no doubt be melted down in some environmentally correct manner and made into peace-keeping helmets.

And so this is what we've comes to: the richest country in the world, eying a penniless neighbor with envy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼75°

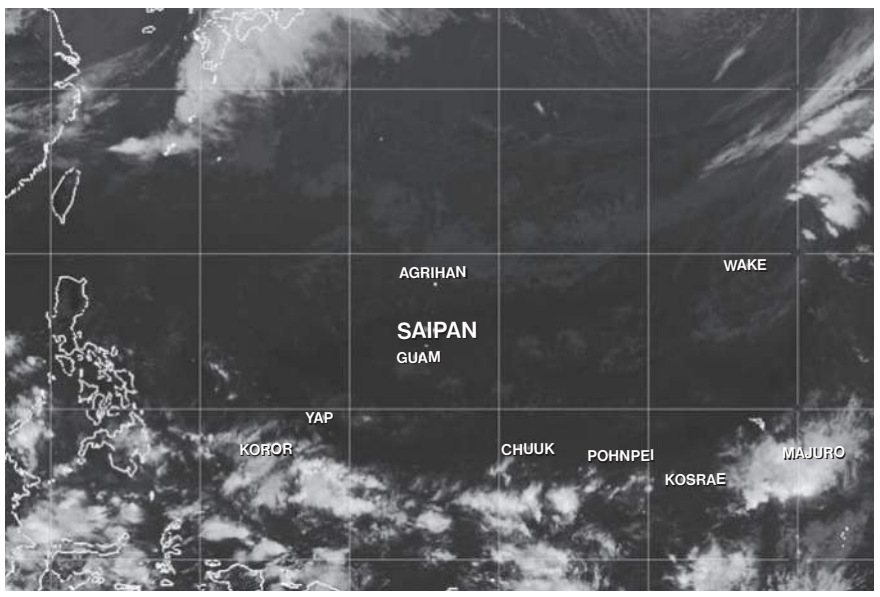
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲88	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲90	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲92	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲77	▼48
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Showers	▲56	▼42
Los Angeles	Rain	▲60	▼49
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲94	▼80
Melbourne	Sunny	▲73	▼50
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼66
New York	Showers	▲56	▼42
Osaka	Sunny	▲65	▼51
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼40
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼51
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼52
Salem	Showers	▲57	▼42
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼51
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼42
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼53
Washington, DC	Showers	▲56	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward across much of Micronesia from 2N130E through a weak circulation at 3N139E to end southeast of Kosrae 3N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from near Koror to south of Chuuk are south of a line from 5N130E to 7N135E to 4N155E. A weak shear line runs southwestward from 25N167E to 19N156E then across the far Northern Marianas to end near 15N140E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of the shear line. A subtropical low centered just northeast of Wake Island at 21N169E is triggering scattered showers between 15N and 25N from 164E to 172E and isolated thunderstorms near 23N172E. A surface trough across the Marshall Islands is producing numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over Majuro within 100 miles of a line from 5N165E to 6N170E to 8N173E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:38 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:05 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:52 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
7:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		10:49 AM
Friday	12:07 AM	11:48 AM
Saturday	12:58 AM	12:45 PM
Sunday	1:43 AM	1:38 PM
Monday	2:25 AM	2:29 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple market value hits $600B

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple, already the world's most valuable company, hit the $600 billion level for the first time Tuesday.

Only one other company has been worth $600 billion—Apple's old sparring partner Microsoft Corp. It reached that valuation for 13 trading days around the turn of the millennium, at the peak of the technology stock mania.

At its highest level, on Dec. 30, 1999, Microsoft's valuation was $619 billion. It's now worth about $255 billion.

General Electric Co. came just short of reaching a $600 billion valuation in August 2000.

Apple shares hit $644 in morning trading, up 1.2 percent from Monday's close. At that price, the entire company was worth $600.4 billion. By midday, the shares had retreated. The stock closed at $628.44, down 1.2 percent from the day before, putting the value below $600 billion again.

Apple's stock is up nearly 60 percent since the start of the year, an indication that investors are catching up to what analysts have been saying for a while: Despite its enormous market capitalization, Apple's stock has been undervalued relative to its even more enormous profits.

The rally has also been fueled by the report of another blowout holiday quarter, and the announcement that Apple will start putting its $97.6 billion cash hoard to use this summer by paying a dividend and buying back shares.

Apple's market capitalization hit $500 billion on Feb. 29. That, in itself, was a rare achievement: Only five other U.S. companies have ever been worth that much.

Apple's market capitalization is still well below Microsoft's 1999 record if inflation is taken into account. The $619 billion then becomes $846 billion.

Many analysts believe Apple can get there, though. Last week, Brian White of Topeka Capital Markets was the first to set a stock price target of more than $800, with a goal of $1,001. That target implies a market capitalization of $932 billion.

White believes Apple will expand its reach this year by starting to sell the iPhone through China Mobile, that country's largest phone company, and by launching a TV set. Apple hasn't confirmed either piece of speculation.

In a rare contrarian opinion, BTIG Research analyst Walter Piecyk downgraded Apple from "Buy" to "Hold" on Monday, saying its profit margins are unsustainable. Phone companies are seeing the profits sapped by the subsidies they pay for the iPhone, he notes, and are set to curb their upgrade policies and otherwise make it harder for people to trade up to the newest model. That effect will hardly be visible when Apple reports results for the most recent quarter in two weeks, Piecyk believes, but he said it will become more apparent later this year.

China's largest oil company, PetroChina, was briefly worth $1 trillion after it listed on the Shanghai stock exchange in 2007, but only based on its price on that exchange. Its shares also trade in Hong Kong and on the New York Stock Exchange. Based on trading there, its market capitalization has never reached $500 billion.

AP

In a Wednesday, March 7, 2012 file photo, Apple CEO Tim Cook announces a new iPad during an Apple announcement in San Francisco. On Tuesday, April 10, 2012, Apple, already the world's most valuable company, hit the $600 billion level for the first time.

Loyal Instagram users fret about Facebook's reach

NEW YORK (AP)—Poor Instagram users.

First, their beloved photo-sharing application moves from iPhone-only exclusivity to the Android phone masses. A week later, Facebook swallows up the tiny startup behind the app for $1 billion. The purchase sparked worries that Facebook might shutter Instagram or change it for the worse by harvesting their personal information or shoving ads into their carefully curated photo streams.

"I've tried very hard not to be part of the Facebook ecosystem," says Darwin Poblete, a Brooklyn, New York-based architect who has used Instagram since its early days. "Now I feel like the purchase has sucked me in. I'll have to see how the privacy settings change to decide if I will leave it."

Instagram has attracted more than 31 million users in less than two years. Its near-cult-like early followers were loyal iPhone users who flocked to the app for its ease-of-use, its playful filters that can make even boring photos look artistic, and its lack of ads, status updates and other clutter. Apple named Instagram the iPhone App of the Year in 2011.

To be fair, both Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Instagram CEO Kevin Systorm sought to reassure people that the app is here to stay. Unlike all the other startups Facebook has bought, Instagram will remain available to people who don't use Facebook or don't want to connect it to their accounts on the world's most populous online social network, the CEOs said.

"Millions of people around the world love the Instagram app and the brand associated with it, and our goal is to help spread this app and brand to even more people," Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page announcing the purchase on Monday.

It's hard to say, though, what Facebook might do a year or two from now. After all, its site's constant evolution has been a big reason for its success. Doing things the old way just because a few users complain isn't the Facebook way.

For Samantha Hutmacher, change isn't necessarily a bad thing. The college student, who uses both Facebook and—since last week—Instagram, says that if Facebook tweaks the app, "I assume it'll be more creative."

Study: Tax deadline day can be deadly on US roads

CHICAGO (AP)—The two certainties in life—death and taxes—may be more intertwined than Ben Franklin ever imagined: A study found that deadly auto accidents increase on Tax Day.

Drivers recklessly racing to the post office to meet the deadline might be one reason. Or it could be that stressing over taxes distracts motorists and contributes to human error, researchers said.

They looked at 30 years of data and found 6,783 traffic-related deaths on Tax Day, or 226 per day. That compares with 213 per day on one day a week before the deadline day and another day a week after.

Drivers were slightly less likely than passengers and pedestrians to be killed.

The traffic death rate on Tax Day—which usually falls on April 15—was 6 percent higher than on other April days. That doesn't sound like a lot, but lead author Dr. Donald Redelmeier said it means an average of about 13 extra deaths per day and amounts to about $40 million in annual losses to society.

That estimate includes loss of life, injury and property damage costs, said Redelmeier, a physician and researcher at the University of Toronto.

The researchers analyzed data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The results appear in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, said having more motorists on the road and drivers taking routes that are not in their everyday routines might make Tax Day riskier. Other research has said those factors, and sometimes alcohol use, may contribute to increases in traffic deaths on other days, including Super Bowl Sunday, July 4 and Election Day.

Report: Dodgy dossiers hurt job-seekers' chances

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of U.S. job hunters are losing out because employers use faulty background-check data drawn from shoddy records, consumer advocates say in a new report.

Those advocates want the government to make sure people know what information prospective employers see, so that errors can be corrected and abusive companies can be held responsible.

Use of criminal-background data is exploding as the economy struggles back from the worst job crisis in decades, the National Consumer Law Center says in the report, which is being released Wednesday. To meet surging demand, countless dubious companies have sprouted up, it says.

"It's the Wild West for background-screening report companies," says Persis Yu, lead writer of the report. "They're generating billions in revenue, but they have little or no accountability."

Nearly three-fourths of companies conduct criminal background checks for some job applicants, according to a 2010 study by the Society for Human Resource Management. They buy criminal-background data from providers of all sizes, including national names like Lexis-Nexis as well as upstarts that could include "anyone with a computer, an Internet connection and access to records," the report says.

Data providers obtain information from online public records, private vendors, jails and police blotters, it says. Sloppy handling of that data can cause a search on one person to turn up a rap sheet about someone with a similar name, for example.

Other common errors include displaying criminal records that were supposed to be sealed or wiped clean, misclassifying minor offenses as major crimes and listing charges that have been dismissed, the report says.

The information is more widely available in part because local law-enforcement agencies are selling it to raise money, the group says. It says some data providers refuse to correct errors even when people can document inaccuracies.

That's not an option for many people, Yu said, because employers often ignore laws requiring them to let people correct any false, negative information before making a hiring decision.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
12,715.93	1,358.58	2,991.22
-213.66	-23.61	0.00
-1.65%	-1.71%	+0.00%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.971	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7644	Philippine Peso	42.7575
British Pound	0.6284	Indian Rupee	51.5137	Singapore Dollar	1.2593
Canadian Dollar	1.0024	Indonesian Rupiah	9181.75	South Korean Won	1144.5
Chinese Yuan	6.3093	Japanese Yen	80.79	Swiss Franc	0.9158
Euro	0.7621	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0751	Taiwan Dollar	29.5215
		New Zealand Dollar	1.2233	Thailand Baht	30.93

Nation

Santorum drops out, clearing the way for Romney

GETTYSBURG, Pa. (AP)—Rick Santorum cleared the way for Mitt Romney to claim victory in the long and hard-fought battle for the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday, giving up his "against all odds" campaign as Romney's tenacious conservative rival.

Santorum's withdrawal sets up what is sure to be an acrimonious seven-month fight for the presidency between Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, and Democratic President Barack Obama, with the certain focus on the still-troubled economy.

"This has been a good day for me," a smiling Romney told supporters in Wilmington, Del., saying he believes Santorum "will continue to have a major role" in the Republican Party.

In a preview of the personal attacks that lie ahead, Obama's campaign manager declared that Americans neither like nor trust Romney, and the Romney camp said the fight had always been about defeating Obama, not GOP rivals.

"This game is a long, long, long way from over," Santorum said as he bowed out of the contest with Romney. "We are going to continue to go out there and fight to make sure that we defeat President Barack Obama."

Santorum had been facing a loss in the April 24 primary in Pennsylvania, the state he represented in Congress for 16 years, and where the Romney campaign planned nearly $3 million in ads against him.

AP

In this Feb. 25, 2012, file photo, Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum, speaks at the San Marino Club during a campaign stop in Troy, Mich.

Whether or not there are lingering hard feelings, Santorum didn't mention Romney, who has been the front-runner for months and was far ahead in the race for the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the nomination at the party's convention in August.

Romney has tried to ignore his GOP rivals and campaign against the president since he first entered the race last year with a pitch focused on the recovering but still frail economy. But Romney was forced to go after Santorum and former house Speaker Newt Gingrich after Santorum showed strength in Iowa and Gingrich in South Carolina early this year. Then Santorum kept on, memorably winning three Southern primaries.

Romney's campaign has long been the best funded, the best organized, and the most professionally run of the GOP contenders.

Despite Santorum's refusal to get out of the race earlier—and Gingrich hasn't officially dropped out yet—Romney had already begun looking ahead with a unifying message. He told Pennsylvania supporters last week that "we're Republicans and Democrats in this campaign, but we're all connected with one destiny for America."

And Obama has turned squarely to face Romney, recently assailing him by name, as his campaign has worked to paint Romney as a rich elitist who will win the nomination only because he buried his opponents under millions of dollars in negative advertising.

"Neither he nor his special interest allies will be able to buy the presidency with their negative attacks," Obama campaign manager Jim Messina said Tuesday after Santorum left the race. "The more the American people see of Mitt Romney, the less they like him and the less they trust him."

In response, a Romney campaign spokeswoman insisted that "for Mitt Romney, this race has always been about defeating President Obama, and getting Americans back to work."

Supreme Court misunderstanding on health overhaul?

WASHINGTON (AP)—A possible misunderstanding about President Barack Obama's health care overhaul could cloud Supreme Court deliberations on its fate, leaving the impression that the law's insurance requirement is more onerous than it actually is.

During the recent oral arguments some of the justices and the lawyers appearing before them seemed to be under the impression that the law does not allow most consumers to buy low-cost, stripped-down insurance to satisfy its controversial coverage requirement.

In fact, the law provides for a cheaper "bronze" plan that is broadly similar to today's so-called catastrophic coverage policies for individuals, several insurance experts said.

"I think there is confusion," said Paul Keckley, health research chief for Deloitte, a major benefits consultant. "I found myself wondering how much they understood the Affordable Care Act. Several times the questions led me to wonder how much (the justices') clerks had gone back into the law in advance of the arguments."

Monthly premiums for the bronze plan would be lower, and it would cover a much smaller share of medical expenses than a typical employer plan.

"Bronze is a very skinny product," said Keckley.

Starting in 2014, the health care law requires most Americans to obtain health insurance, either through an employer, a government program, or by buying their own policies. In return, insurance companies would be prohibited from turning away the sick. Government would subsidize premiums for millions now uninsured.

The law's opponents argue that Congress overstepped its constitutional authority by issuing the mandate, while the administration says the requirement is permissible because it serves to regulate interstate commerce. The scope of the mandate was one of several key issues argued before the court.

"If I understand the law, the policies that you're requiring people to purchase ... must contain provision for maternity and newborn care, pediatric services and substance use treatment," said Chief Justice John Roberts. "It seems to me that you cannot say that everybody is going to need ... substance use treatment or pediatric services, and yet that is part of what you require them to purchase."

That may be true, but the law's bronze plan isn't exactly robust coverage. It would require policyholders to spend thousands of dollars of their own money before insurance kicks in. That's how catastrophic coverage works now.

It means anyone—particularly younger, healthy people—can satisfy the health care law's insurance requirement without paying full freight for comprehensive coverage they may not need.

Solicitor General Donald Verrilli did not highlight the bronze plan in his defense of the law, an omission that may prove significant.

"I would definitely say that if you listen to the court proceedings it would be easy to come away with the impression that the health care reform law was requiring people to buy Cadillac insurance, which is certainly not the case," said Larry Levitt, head of the Kaiser Family Foundation's Initiative on Health Reform and Private Insurance. The foundation is a nonpartisan information clearinghouse.

The health care law does impose a minimum set of "essential health benefits" for most insurance plans. Those benefits have yet to be specified, but are expected to reflect what a typical small-business plan now offers, with added preventive, mental health and other services.

Zimmerman's lawyers withdraw from shooting case

SANFORD, Fla. (AP)—The Trayvon Martin case took a bizarre turn Tuesday when George Zimmerman's attorneys quit, complaining that they have lost all contact with him and that he called the prosecutor and talked to a TV host after they told him not to speak to anyone.

The lawyers portrayed the former neighborhood watch captain as erratic and his mental state as shaky, and they expressed fear for his health under the pressure that has been building in the month since he shot and killed Martin, an unarmed black teenager.

"As of the last couple days he has not returned phone calls, text messages or emails," attorney Craig Sonner said at a news conference outside the courthouse. "He's gone on his own. I'm not sure what he's doing or who he's talking to. I cannot go forward speaking to the public about George Zimmerman and this case as representing him because I've lost contact with him."

The split came as special prosecutor Angela Corey neared a decision on whether to charge Zimmerman with a crime in the Feb. 26 shooting.

That decision could come later this week, as Corey released a brief statement late Tuesday saying she would make an announcement about the case within 72 hours. She did not specify what new development in the case would be released.

Sonner and colleague Hal Uhrig said they had not spoken with Zimmerman since Sunday. Since then, they said, they had learned that he spoke to Corey's office and to Fox TV host Sean Hannity without consulting them, in an attempt to give his side of the shooting. They said Corey refused to talk to Zimmerman without his attorneys' consent and Hannity wouldn't tell them what was discussed.

Zimmerman also set up his own website even as the lawyers were creating one for him at his request. Zimmerman said on his website that he wants "to ensure my supporters they are receiving my full attention without any intermediaries." The site allows visitors to give Zimmerman money for living expenses and legal bills.

Sonner and Uhrig said that they still believe in Zimmerman's innocence and that they would probably represent him again if he contacted them and requested it. They said Zimmerman is in the U.S., but wouldn't say where because they fear for his safety.

They said Zimmerman has been under extreme pressure and is basically alone, having gone underground because of the furor.

"This has been a terribly corrosive process. George Zimmerman, in our opinion, and from information made available to us, is not doing well emotionally, probably suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. We understand from others that he may have lost a lot of weight," Uhrig said.

"To handle it this way suggests that he may not be in complete control of what's going on. We're concerned for his emotional and physical safety."

Ben Crump, an attorney for Martin's family, said they are worried that Zimmerman might flee if he is charged.

"We're just concerned that nobody knows where he is at. Nobody knows how to get to him," Crump said.

Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. attorney in Miami who is now in private practice, questioned the way the lawyers publicly cast doubt on Zimmerman's mental stability.

ACROSS THE NATION

Wash. officer's daughter shot in leg with his gun

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The 10-year-old daughter of a decorated Spokane police officer was in stable condition Tuesday after being shot in the leg with her father's duty weapon, Spokane police said as they announced that sheriff's detectives would investigate the accidental shooting. Officer Barry O'Connell, an 18-year police department veteran, has been placed on paid leave during the investigation, The Spokesman-Review reported. The little girl wounded Sunday was not immediately identified by name. Details of the shooting were not immediately available.

Authorities defend Colo. fire warning attempts

DENVER (AP)—Firefighters are defending their attempts to warn residents about a fast-moving Colorado wildfire in response to questions raised by the family of one of three people killed by the blaze. About an hour before the first wave of automated evacuated warning calls on March 26, a volunteer firefighter rushed from house to house telling residents to leave. He was unable to reach Ann Appel because of a chain across her driveway, and her family is questioning why he didn't leave his vehicle and walk past the chain to warn her. Inter-Canyon Fire/Rescue chief Dave MacBean told KMGH-TV that it wasn't safe because there were trees on both sides of the narrow driveway, which can help a fire spread. Fire spokesman Dan Hatlestad wouldn't directly address the family's question on Tuesday, but the department has said the house wasn't visible from the end of the driveway.

Appeals court hears Pa. 'boobies' bracelets case

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A federal appeals court is considering an eastern Pennsylvania school district's efforts to ban breast cancer fundraising bracelets that say "I (heart) boobies!" Easton's The Express-Times newspaper says the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel in Philadelphia heard opening statements in the case Tuesday. Two Easton Area Middle School students say their freedom of speech rights were violated when they were suspended for wearing the bracelets in October 2010. The district is appealing a federal judge's ruling that the district cannot ban the rubber jewelry because it is not lewd, vulgar or distracting to the school day.

Asia

NKorea rocket covered; fuel injection under way

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Engineers are pumping fuel into a rocket that is set to carry a satellite into space, officials at the North Korean space agency's central command center said Wednesday, showing reporters a live feed of the west coast launch pad.

The live images of the Sohae site showed most of the Unha-3 rocket covered with a green tarp. The Kwangmyongsong-3 earth observation satellite, which was not visible in the feed, has been mounted and is draped with the tarp to protect it from the wind, Paek Chang Ho, chief of the General Launch Command Center, told reporters.

He said the rocket was ready for liftoff as early as Thursday, the start of a five-day window set for the controversial launch timed to coincide with mid-April celebrations marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

"We are injecting fuel as we speak," Paek told reporters from a viewing platform in front of a large screen showing the live feed, as 16 scientists in white lab coats worked at computers below him. The central command center outside Pyongyang is where late leader Kim Jong Il and successor Kim Jong Un watched an April 2009 rocket launch, he said.

■■■

TOKYO (AP)—The top U.S. military commander in the Pacific has called North Korea's plans to launch a rocket a "highly provocative" move that would threaten regional security and could affect future security plans.

Adm. Samuel Locklear says the launch would be a direct violation of Pyongyang's international obligations and U.N. Security Council resolutions.

He told reporters in Japan on Wednesday: "The event poses a threat to regional security that has to be considered as we move forward with the security of the (U.S.-Japan) alliance and the security of our relationships here in Asia."

North Korea says it is putting a satellite into orbit, but Locklear says the real objective appears to be a ballistic missile test.

■■■

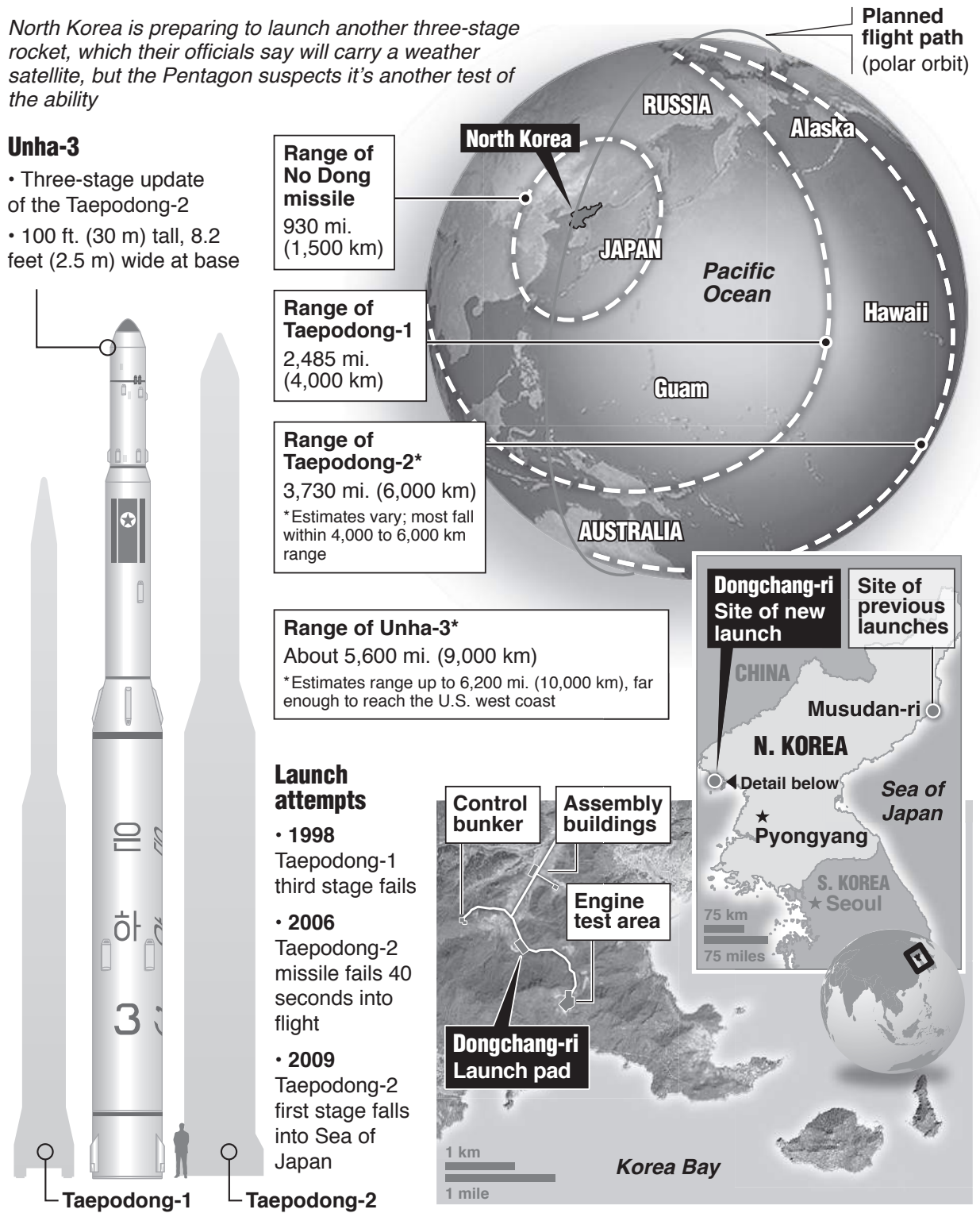
The United States, Britain, Japan and others have urged North Korea to cancel the upcoming launch, saying it would be considered a violation of U.N. resolutions prohibiting the country from nuclear and ballistic missile activity.

Experts say the Unha-3 carrier is similar to rockets that would be used to launch a long-range missile aimed at the U.S. and other targets. North Korea has tested two atomic devices but is not believed to have mastered the technology needed to mount a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile.

Along the road to the central command, new posters welcomed Workers' Party delegates who are scheduled to convene Wednesday for the fourth conference of North Korea's ruling political party. Kim Jong Un is expected to inherit new titles at the conference, including some held by his father, Kim Jong Il, who died in December.

North Korea to test fire new missile

North Korea is preparing to launch another three-stage rocket, which their officials say will carry a weather satellite, but the Pentagon suspects it's another test of the ability



Source: Federation of American Scientists, McClatchy Washington Bureau, Chicago Tribune Graphic: Robert Dorrell © 2011 MCT

Philippine ex-leader pleads not guilty in 2nd case

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her husband pleaded not guilty Wednesday to corruption charges related to an overpriced deal with a Chinese telecommunications company in a second criminal case against her.

Arroyo was arrested last year on a separate charge of electoral fraud and has been since indicted in connection with a $330 million government contract with Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE Corp.

A congressional probe found the 2007 contract overpriced and ridden with problems, including allegations that Arroyo's husband, Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, accepted bribes to push through the contract with his wife's approval.

Under public pressure, Arroyo canceled the deal the same year. She left office in 2010 and faced a wide-ranging prosecution as part of a promise by her popular successor, President Benigno Aquino III, to uproot corruption.

Arroyo and her husband entered their pleas at a special anti-graft court called Sandiganbayan. Arroyo was escorted by heavily armed police from a government-run hospital, where she has been detained on the fraud charge—from which she cannot be bailed out—while undergoing treatment for a spinal ailment. Mike Arroyo last month posted bail at the anti-graft court to avoid detention.

Arroyo's lawyer, Laurence Arroyo, said his client was also diagnosed with shingles and went to the court against her doctor's advice. "She wanted to face squarely already the charges against her and get the trial going," he said.

A former elections chief, Benjamin Abalos, also pleaded not guilty Wednesday.

At the 2007 congressional hearing investigating the anomalous contract, former Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri testified that Abalos offered him a bribe to approve the ZTE contract. Jose de Venecia III, a losing bidder with connections to the Arroyos' inner circle, testified that the ex-president's husband was promised a $70 million commission.

Arroyo then prevented top officials, including Neri, from continuing to testify in the probe and the issue was never properly investigated.

After Aquino took power, the Philippine ombudsman investigated and filed charges at the anti-graft court, which issued the arrest warrants. If convicted, they face a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Aquino blames his predecessor for corruption and says he wants to clean up the government, starting with the prosecution of the Arroyos and their allies. The former first couple accuse Aquino of pursuing a political vendetta.

The ZTE case also tested the Philippines' relations with China, which Arroyo aggressively pursued. Aquino appears more lukewarm to Beijing amid a resurgence in territorial tensions over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

ZTE has denied paying any kickbacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Suu Kyi invited to meet with Myanmar's president

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi will meet President Thein Sein on Wednesday for what a spokesman describes as a very important meeting before she takes her seat in Parliament. National League for Democracy spokesman Nyan Win said Suu Kyi would fly to the capital Naypyitaw to talk at Thein Sein's invitation. He said Tuesday they may discuss democratization and the peace process with ethnic rebels, as well as parliamentary affairs. The parliamentary session opens April 23. A meeting between them last August paved the way for the NLD to rejoin electoral politics and collaborate in promoting political reconciliation.

Philippine warship in standoff with China vessels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government says its largest warship is engaged in a standoff with Chinese surveillance vessels that blocked it when it attempted to arrest Chinese fishermen anchored at a South China Sea shoal where both sides claim sovereignty. Foreign Secretary Albert Del Rosario on Wednesday summoned Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing to resolve the dangerous impasse diplomatically. His office said in a statement that the Scarborough Shoal "is an integral part of Philippine territory" and Filipino authorities would assert sovereignty over the offshore area. The shoal lies off the northwestern Philippine province of Zambales. China and the Philippines have been disputing ownership of the shoal, in addition to the Spratly Islands and other areas in the South China Sea.

China ousts top politician, accuses wife of murder

BEIJING (AP)—A flamboyant and telegenic politician who until recently seemed destined for the top ranks of China's leadership was stripped of his most powerful posts on Tuesday and his wife named in the murder of a British businessman as Chinese leaders moved to stem a scandal that has exposed divisive infighting. The announcement that Bo Xilai was being suspended from the Communist Party's Politburo and Central Committee and that his wife was a suspect in a homicide investigation put an end to a colorful political career. Media-savvy with a populist flair, Bo gained a nationwide following for busting organized crime and for reviving communist culture while running the inland mega-city of Chongqing. His publicity-seeking ways angered some in the top leadership, however. In recent weeks, allegations of Bo's and his family's misdeeds leaked into public view, threatening to complicate preparations by the leadership for a delicate, once-a-decade transition to younger leaders at a congress later this year.

World

Syria defies cease-fire plan as peace hopes fade

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops defied a U.N.-brokered cease-fire plan on Tuesday, launching fresh attacks on rebellious areas, but special envoy Kofi Annan said there was still time to salvage a truce that he described as the only chance for peace.

More than a year into the Syrian uprising, the international community has nearly run out of options for halting the slide toward civil war. On Tuesday, Annan insisted his peace initiative remains "very much alive"—in part because there is no viable alternative.

The U.N. has ruled out any military intervention of the type that helped bring down Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, and several rounds of sanctions and other attempts to isolate President Bashar Assad have done little to stop the bloodshed.

"If you want to take (the plan) off the table, what will you replace it with?" Annan told reporters in Hatay, Turkey, where he toured a camp sheltering Syrian refugees. Facing a Tuesday deadline to pull back its tanks and troops, the Syrian government had said it was withdrawing from certain areas, including the rebellious central province of Homs. But France called the claims a "flagrant and unacceptable lie," and activists said there was no sign of a withdrawal.

Residents of Homs reported some of the heaviest shelling in months.

"Hundreds of mortar rounds and shells were falling around all day," resident Tarek Badrakhan told The Associated Press. He said a makeshift hospital housing wounded people and dozens of corpses was destroyed in the shelling.

AP

In this image made from amateur video released by the Syrian Media Council and accessed Tuesday, April 10, 2012, smoke rises following purported shelling in Homs, Syria.

"It's now on the ground," he said.

In a letter to the U.N. Security Council, obtained by The Associated Press, Annan said Syria has not pulled troops and heavy military equipment out of cities and towns, and that the regime's last-minute conditions put the entire cease-fire at risk.

The council strongly backed Annan, with all 15 members—including Syrian allies China and Russia—urging Syria's leaders to halt all military action so a cease-fire can take effect at 6 a.m. on Thursday, as called for by Annan's plan. It also called on the opposition to stop all violence if the Syrian forces halt attacks.

"Obviously, members of the council are unified in their grave concern that this deadline has passed and the violence has not only continued but over the last 10 days has intensified," said Susan Rice, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. and this month's council president.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said Annan's report made clear that "Assad is not complying with the commitments that he made under the six-point plan and that, in fact, violence has only gotten worse over this last week."

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe accused Assad of lying and flouting Syria's commitments. "Not only has the use of heavy weapons not ended ...but what was presented as a withdrawal is in fact only a thinly disguised redeployment," he said in a statement.

According to Annan's peace plan, the pullback of Syrian forces was supposed to be followed by a full cease-fire by all within 48 hours. The halt in fighting would then pave the way for an observer mission and talks between both sides over the country's future.

After 13 months of bloodshed, a revolt that began as a mostly peaceful movement against Assad's stagnant and entrenched regime has morphed into an insurgency.

The U.N. estimates more than 9,000 people have been killed since the uprising began, and the toll climbs every day. Regime forces assault their opponents with tanks, machine guns and snipers, and the Free Syrian Army rebel group launches frequent attacks against government targets, killing soldiers and security forces.

Syria's main opposition group said about 1,000 people have been killed in regime attacks in the last eight days alone, a figure that could not be independently confirmed.

The conflict is among the most explosive of the Arab Spring, in part because of Syria's web of allegiances to powerful forces including Lebanon's Hezbollah and Shiite powerhouse Iran.

Western leaders have pinned their hopes on Annan's diplomatic pressure, with the U.S. and others unwilling to get deeply involved in another Arab nation in turmoil—particularly one as unpredictable as Syria. Even though Washington has a clear interest in seeing Assad go, in part because it would be a blow to Iran, the Obama administration is reluctant to use force.

Russia and China had blocked strong action by the U.N. Security Council, giving Assad a significant layer of protection as his crackdown continues.

Republican U.S. Sen. John McCain, who has called on the Obama administration to launch U.S. airstrikes to end Assad's crackdown, said Russia and China should be ashamed of their stance.

"Shame on you for blocking the efforts that could be made by the U.N. to stop the slaughter," he said in Turkey.

With the conflict at a stalemate, Annan's plan was hailed as a possible diplomatic breakthrough, even though there was skepticism from the start that the deadline would hold.

Annan, working on behalf of the U.N. and the Arab League, secured the support of Russia and China for his cease-fire plan, and he went to Iran on Tuesday to press officials there for support as well.

But a swift halt to the fighting is unrealistic, analysts say.

"Full and timely implementation of Annan's plan almost surely was never in the cards," the International Crisis Group said in an analysis of the Syrian conflict. "But that is not a reason to give up on diplomacy in general or the Annan mission in particular."

The priority must be to keep the conflict from getting worse, the report said.

"In the absence of a realistic, workable alternative, the best chance to achieve that is still to build on aspects of the envoy's initiative and achieve broad international consensus around a detailed roadmap," the report said.

Still, critics have accused Assad of playing for time since he accepted the six-point truce agreement on March 27.

Soon after the deadline was agreed, regime forces stepped up attacks on opponents.

On Monday, the violence in Syria spilled across two borders when regime forces opened fire, killing a TV journalist in Lebanon and at least two people in a refugee camp in Turkey.

WORLD BRIEFS

Medical emergency delays Titanic memorial cruise

LONDON (AP)—A cruise ship retracing the route of the Titanic had to interrupt its journey on Tuesday because of a medical emergency on board, organizers said. The Titanic Memorial Cruise—on its way to the North Atlantic site where the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank 100 years ago—had to turn back briefly to the Irish coast so that a sick passenger could be airlifted to a hospital. Organizers did not identify the passenger or describe the ailment, but the BBC reported that one of its cameramen, Tim Rex, was airlifted by rescue helicopter "as a medical precaution."

Spain town nixes pot-growing plan to pay off debt

RASQUERA, Spain (AP)—What about growing marijuana to pay off crushing municipal debt? One Spanish village put the idea to the vote Tuesday, and a majority of its citizens approved—but not the 75 percent needed. The referendum in Rasquera, population 960, in the northeastern Catalonia region represented a quirky and legally touchy illustration of Spain's deep financial woes. The seven-member town council first approved the idea in March, but it ignited such controversy that the mayor agreed to put it to a referendum in the hamlet of mostly retirees.

Baby alive after 12 hours in Argentine morgue

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—An Argentine woman who insisted on seeing the presumably lifeless body of her premature baby found the infant alive in the drawer of a hospital morgue. Authorities say the girl had spent 12 hours in the refrigerated room at the Perrando de Resistencia hospital in northern Argentina. Analia Bouter tells Todo Noticias television that she thought she was hallucinating when she looked at her infant in the morgue drawer and heard a whimper and saw signs of life.

Court: UK can extradite 5 terror suspects to US

PARIS (AP)—Europe's human rights court ruled Tuesday that Britain can send a radical Muslim cleric and four other suspects to the United States to face terrorism charges in a case that has been closely watched as an indicator of whether tough U.S. prisons could influence extradition policy.

The court said Britain would not violate EU human rights rules by extraditing the suspects, who could face life sentences in a maximum-security prison.

The long-running legal battle centered on Mustafa Kamal Mustafa, also known as Abu Hamza al-Masri, considered Britain's most recognizable extremist, thanks in part to his fiery rhetoric and hook for a hand. He has long been a figure of tabloid newspaper scorn.

Al-Masri and the other men had argued that in the U.S. they could face prison conditions and jail terms that would expose them to "torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" in breach of the European human rights code.

The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, rejected those claims, saying in its ruling Tuesday that "detention conditions and length of sentences of five alleged terrorists would not amount to ill-treatment if they were extradited to the U.S.A."

However, the court said the five "should not be extradited" until its judgment becomes final—a move that could take months—or until a possible appeals process ends.

It also put off ruling on the case of a sixth suspect, Haroon Rashid Aswat. The court said it needs further information about his schizophrenia and the conditions of his detention at a British hospital.

The suspects are accused of crimes such as setting up a terrorist camp in the United States and raising funds for terrorists.

The decision capped off years of legal wrangling, during which the British government has sharply criticized the European court over repeated delays. One of the men awaiting extradition has been held in a British jail for eight years without charge.

It also comes at a sensitive time because British extradition policy recently suffered a major setback when the European court ruled that the U.K. could not deport another radical cleric, Abu Qatada, to Jordan.

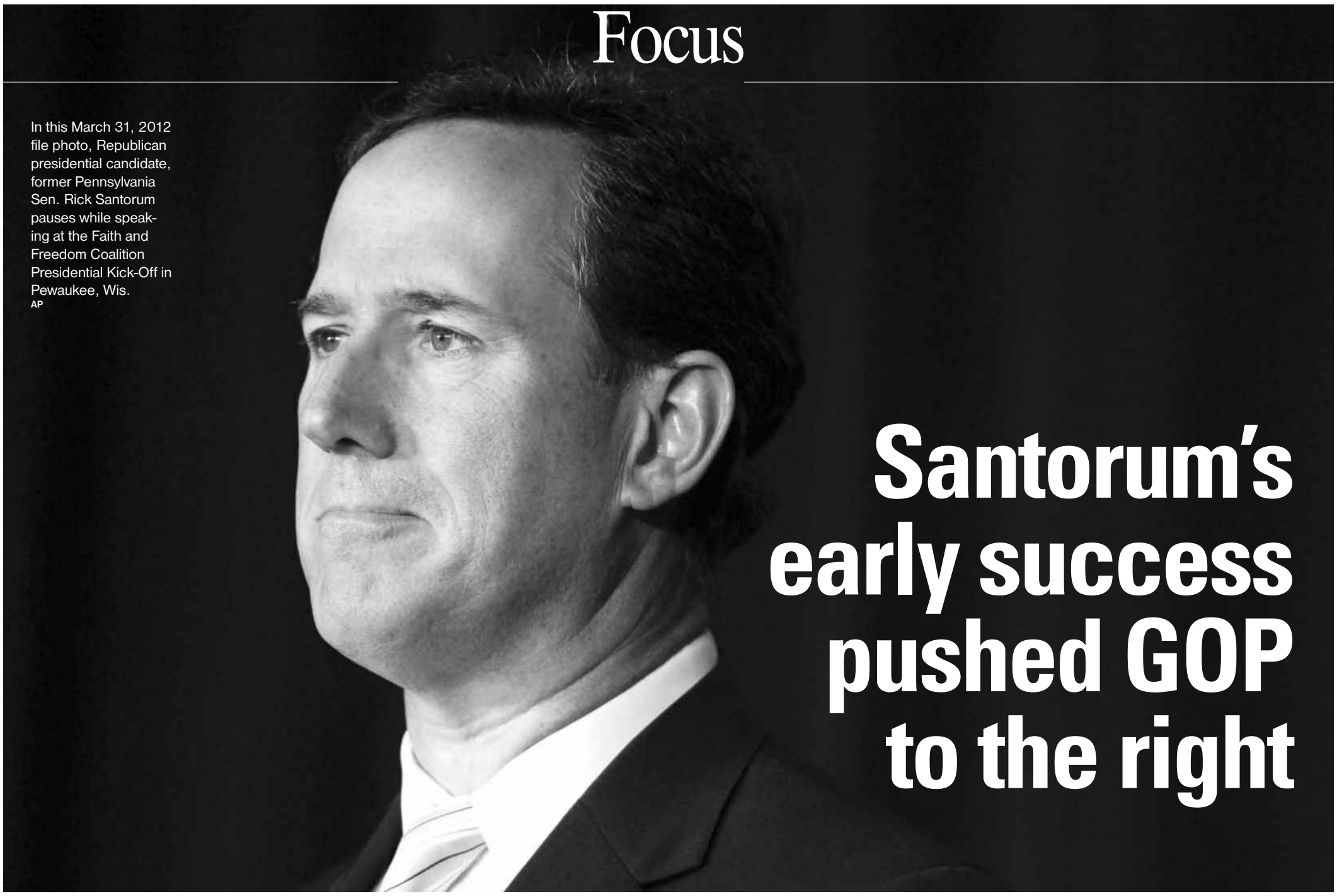
British lawmakers have urged the government to reform extradition laws, pushing for changes to the U.K.-U.S. extradition treaty on the ground that justice would often be better served by a trial at home.

Still, an independent review found last year that the treaty was both balanced and fair.

On Tuesday, British Prime Minister David Cameron he is "very pleased" with the court's decision. "It is quite right that we have proper legal processes, although sometimes one can get frustrated with how long they take," he said.

The U.S. is also pleased with the judgment, according to a statement posted on the U.S. Embassy in London's website.

Focus



In this March 31, 2012 file photo, Republican presidential candidate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum pauses while speaking at the Faith and Freedom Coalition Presidential Kick-Off in Pewaukee, Wis.
AP

Santorum's early success pushed GOP to the right

WASHINGTON (AP)—From obscure former senator driving a pickup truck across Iowa, Rick Santorum made a surprising—he calls it miraculous—leap to become the most formidable threat to Mitt Romney's march to the Republican nomination. His shoestring campaign, which ended Tuesday, was a constant reminder of Romney's trouble connecting with the party's conservative core.

Santorum's presence in the race pushed to the fore polarizing social issues, such as abortion, access to birth control and gays in the military, that many in the party preferred not to delve into as the GOP prepared to court independent voters in the general election campaign against President Barack Obama. Although he accused the media of unfairly focusing on that part of his broader campaign, Santorum was unapologetic about taking on such issues.

"We did focus a lot, yes, on the families and on the dignity of human life and on the moral enterprise that is America," he said Tuesday in Gettysburg, Pa., as he announced his decision to suspend his campaign.

He added: "We were winning in a very different way because we were touching hearts. We were raising issues that, well, frankly, a lot of people didn't want to have raised."

As it became obvious Santorum could not triumph in the primaries and caucuses, he began talking of an unorthodox strategy of stealing the nomination away from a weakened Romney at a divided Republican National Convention. Santorum argued that the delegates would embrace him as the true conservative in the race, even though most are being sent to the convention by voters who chose Romney.

Many Republicans, bent on showing unity against Obama, considered such a strategy disastrous and began calling for the party to rally around Romney as the presumptive nominee.

While Santorum avoided mentioning Romney on Tuesday, he pledged to stay in the fight to defeat Obama, which presumably means embracing the party's nominee at some point. In a recent interview, Santorum even said he was open to the possibility of becoming Romney's running mate.

He seems an unlikely choice for Romney, given that just last month he was calling the former Massachusetts governor "the worst Republican in the country" to challenge Obama.

Santorum likes to compare himself to President Ronald Reagan, a fellow conservative who happens to have lost his own first bid for the party's nomination before winning in a landslide four years later. The comparison suggests Santorum might expect better chances for himself in 2016, should Obama win re-election.

No matter what, Santorum has made himself a national name and gained influence over his party's agenda.

His withdrawal came after he had fallen hopelessly behind Romney in the race for GOP delegates. And he risked an embarrassing loss in his home state of Pennsylvania if he stuck around for its April 24 primary. Polls indicated his once strong lead slipping away in Pennsylvania, which ousted Santorum from the Senate in a rout in 2006. Many voters there still remember him unfavorably.

Santorum said he came to the decision to leave the race with his family after his daughter Bella, who suffers from a rare and serious genetic condition, was hospitalized over the holiday weekend. She came home Monday night.

Longtime Santorum adviser John Brabender said the candidate, his wife and top advisers agreed on Monday night that ending the campaign was for the best. "It was something everybody felt good about," Brabender said, and "wasn't something that gave us a restless night."

Santorum and Romney talked by phone on Tuesday and agreed to meet in person soon, Brabender said.

One Pennsylvania supporter, Chad Collie, said Santorum's withdrawal left him "speechless."

Collie, owner of a plaster and drywall business, had brought his wife and two children, ages 3 and 5, to what he expected to be a Gettysburg campaign event for the "truly genuine conservative" he planned to support in the state's GOP primary. Would he be willing to vote for Romney instead? "We'll see," said Collie, who views Romney as about the same as Obama. "I'm not opposed to a third party."

Early on, Santorum wrestled with competing images: He was the sweater-vest-wearing, smiling underdog, a devoted father of seven taking on the Republican establishment and a multimillionaire front-runner. But he could also come across as a stern moralizer, worried that birth control was harming the nation and government-funded preschools were indoctrinating America's children into liberalism. He seemed to think working mothers would do better to quit their jobs and home school their children, as his wife, Karen, did.

He called Obama "a snob" for wanting all Americans to have the opportunity to go to college. And he said fellow Roman Catholic John F. Kennedy's famous 1960 speech about the separation of church and state made him want to "throw up."

Republicans questioned whether Santorum could appeal to party moderates and independents—and female voters—if he were the party's nominee.

Santorum pointed to his four years in the House and 12 as a senator and argued that he had a stronger command of foreign and military affairs and the national economy than his opponents.

He reveled in his underdog status, reminding supporters that his campaign lacked the money and slickness of Romney's effort and that he spoke from the heart rather than prepared notes. At times, though, he appeared to talk himself into unnecessary controversies, as when he said the economy wasn't the race's top issue and that unemployment didn't concern him as much as the federal government's threat against individual freedom.

Santorum did things the hard way, with relatively little money and scant campaign organization. At times on the campaign trail he bunked in a supporter's guest room.

Even his breakthrough win in the race's first contest, the Iowa caucuses, was bumpy.

Santorum, barely noticed amid a large, colorful Republican field, eked out a surprising victory over his better-funded opponents after doggedly holding 385 town hall meetings across the state. Initially Romney was declared the winner—by just eight votes—and Santorum was relegated to second place. But a few weeks later, the Iowa GOP sheepishly acknowledged errors in the balloting and declared Santorum the winner by 34 votes.

The delayed victory and a thinning field did little to help him in the next four states, where he typically finished in third or fourth place. Fundraising remained a problem, and Santorum was at times overwhelmed by the often negative TV ads supporting Romney.

Santorum's big night came Feb. 7, when he won all three of the states voting: caucuses in Colorado and Minnesota and a nonbinding primary in Missouri

Santorum and Romney tussled in a series of debates. Santorum tried to cast Romney as unable to challenge Obama on his health care law because of his support of a similar health care policy in Massachusetts. Yet Santorum stumbled—he was even booed—when he acknowledged during an Arizona debate that in Congress he had supported the No Child Left Behind law and other legislation he disagreed with because he had to support the overall Republican effort and "take one for the team."

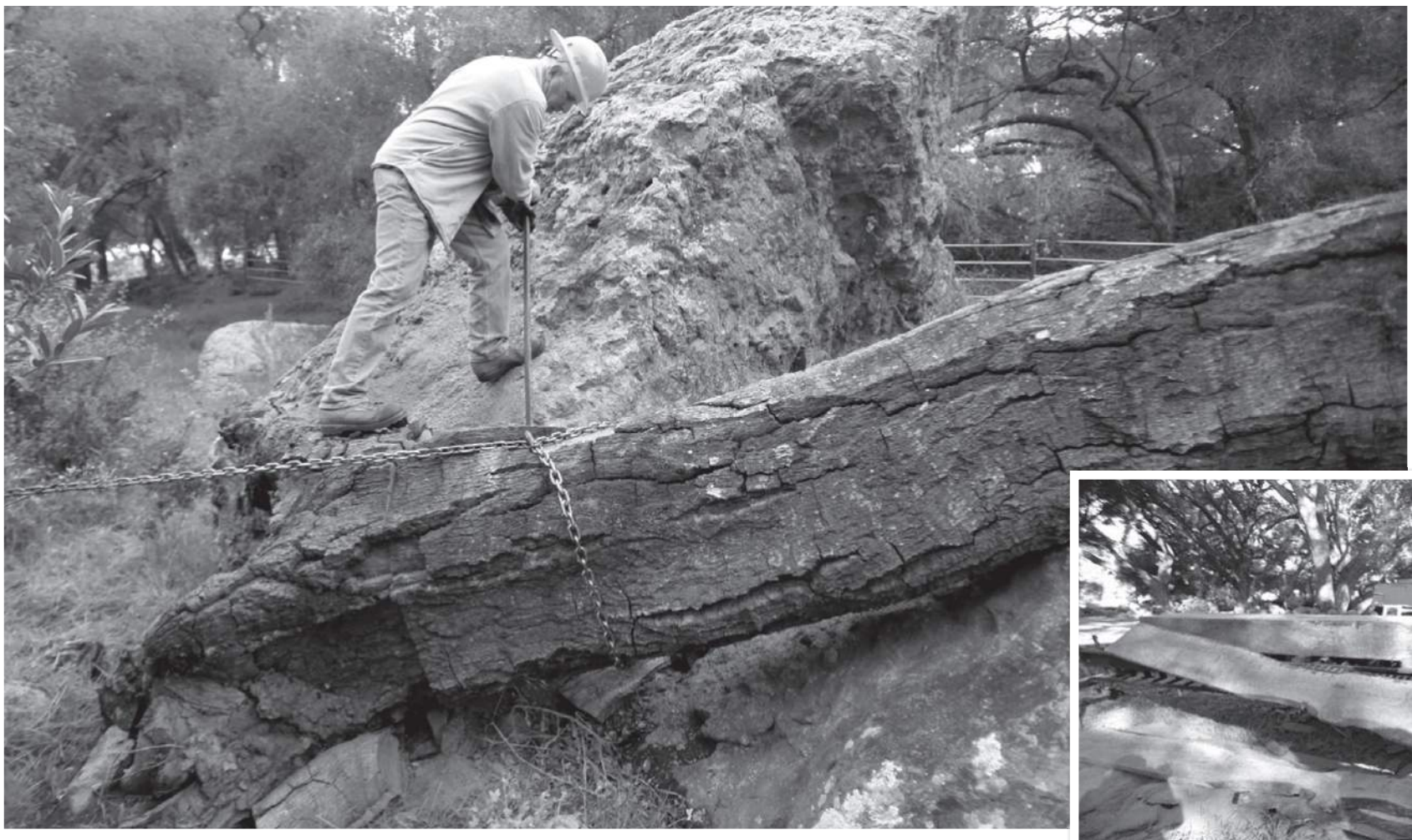
As other candidates peaked and fell to the wayside, Santorum soldiered on to become the only realistic threat to Romney's ascension. Despite winning Super Tuesday contests in North Dakota, Oklahoma and Tennessee and later balloting in Kansas, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, he kept falling further behind Romney in the delegate count. Santorum said he won those 11 states "against all odds."

"Miracle after miracle," he said Tuesday. "This race was as improbable as any race that you will ever see for president."

Environment

WINDFALL FOR ARTISANS

Send fallen trees to a craftsman instead of a chipper



MCT

Brent Cashion of Logs to Lumber uses a chain to move into position a fallen tree at a ranch in HIdden Valley, California, which will be used for flooring.

MCT

Brent Cashion of Logs to Lumber stacks slabs of oak cut from the trunk of a fallen tree on a horizontal band saw at a ranch in HIdden Valley, California, on March 26, 2012. The tree will be cut into slabs to be used for flooring.

By MARY MACVEAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Three men in neon-colored hard hats push the blade through a black acacia tree trunk, slicing it into 3 ½-inch-thick slabs and exposing stunning lines and swirls.

"That acacia's beautiful," says John Dominguez, the director of a 2-month-old partnership between Anaheim, Calif.-based West Coast Arborists and Woodhill Firewood in Irvine, Calif., adding that the old-growth grain is something that "you'll never see" on the market today.

It takes eight minutes to cut each 11-foot-long slab because the wood is so hard, says Tom Rogers, owner of Woodhill Firewood, which takes in 600 tons a day from tree trimming and removal jobs. The acacia should yield eight to 10 slabs, he says. Each might surpass 250 pounds, and with luck they'll be sold to artisans to make tables and other pieces.

That tree, which fell in Monrovia Canyon Park in December, and a nearby deodar cedar that fell in Arcadia, Calif., are examples of how the popularity of salvaged wood furniture has produced a secondary trend: rising efforts to ensure that urban trees, including those that fall during storms, don't end up in landfills.

It's not a new idea to turn such trees into lumber, and some communities such as Lompoc, Calif., have embraced it. The state of California has even lent equipment to those who want to try milling. But until recently, trees that fell or were removed by homeowners and cities in Southern California were mostly treated as trash—perhaps firewood or mulch, officials say.

Dominguez, who has been charmed by wood since playing standup bass in youth symphonies, would like to make more connections with furniture makers and wood artisans and see more closed-loop recycling: A tree falls and gets turned into lumber that's used in flooring in, say, a city building. "Walk into City Hall, and you're walking on street trees," he says.

Ferris Kawar, a recycling specialist in Burbank, Calif., says about 1 percent of what goes to the landfill is wood—an amount he calls "obscene." Branches from downed trees become mulch, he says, but the trunks often go to the landfill.

Setting up a system to use downed trees, perhaps in a public-private partnership, is a pet project for the city's Public Works Department recycling coordinator, Kreigh Hampel. The obstacles include finding space for processing the trees and for storing lumber. But the payoffs: fewer trees sent to landfills, less transporting of lumber and something less tangible.

"People have a connection to wood. They don't want to see it go to waste," says Marina del Rey, Calif., furniture maker Cliff Spencer, among a growing number of artisans and entrepreneurs for whom fallen trees offer not only beauty and durability but an environmental opportunity.

"Here's the value of urban lumber: It's growing in your town, on your streets," Spencer says. "We have a botanical wonderland."

Let 'forage fish' multiply, scientists say

By TONY BARBOZA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The catch of small, schooling fish such as sardines and anchovies should be cut in half globally and the amount left in the ocean doubled to protect the ecologically vital species from collapse, scientists say in a new report.

The silvery species known as forage fish are harvested in huge numbers worldwide and are easy for fishermen to round up because they form dense schools, or "bait balls."

But wide fluctuations in their numbers make them especially vulnerable to overfishing, according to the report released Sunday by the Lenfest Forage Fish Task Force, a 13-member panel of scientists from around the world.

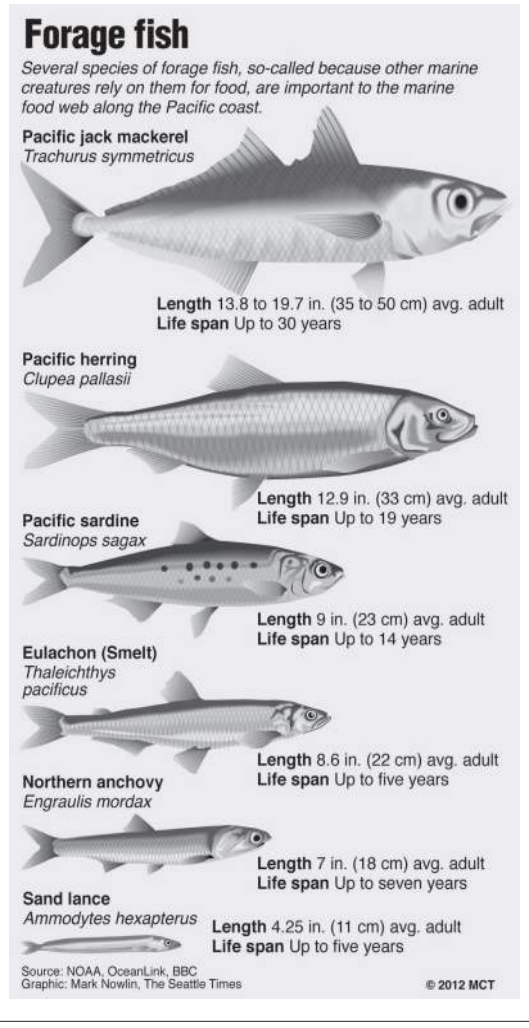
The report urges wildlife managers to take more precautions to prevent future declines.

The analysis estimates that small fish such as herring and menhaden are twice as valuable in the water as in a net because so many larger fish, including tuna, salmon and cod, rely on them for food.

"As the forage fish decline in abundance, so go their predators," said Ellen Pikitch of the Institute for Ocean Conservation Science at New York's Stony Brook University, the head of the panel, which is funded by a nonprofit grant.

The findings are the latest to raise concerns about the harvest of the little, oily fish, given their role as food for the ocean's bigger fish as well as dolphins, whales and seabirds.

Forage fish account for more than one-third of catches globally, the report says, with most of the yield ground into meal and fish oil to feed farmed fish and livestock and to produce nutritional supplements.


Forage fish
Several species of forage fish, so-called because other marine creatures rely on them for food, are important to the marine food web along the Pacific coast.
Pacific jack mackerel
Trachurus symmetricus
Length 13.8 to 19.7 in. (35 to 50 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to 30 years
Pacific herring
Clupea pallasii
Length 12.9 in. (33 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to 19 years
Pacific sardine
Sardinops sagax
Length 9 in. (23 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to 14 years
Eulachon (Smelt)
Thaleichthys pacificus
Length 8.6 in. (22 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to five years
Northern anchovy
Engraulis mordax
Length 7 in. (18 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to seven years
Sand lance
Ammodytes hexapterus
Length 4.25 in. (11 cm) avg. adult
Life span Up to five years
Source: NOAA, OceanLink, BBC
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times
© 2012 MCT

And although their large schools suggest the supply of such fish is vast and limitless, Pikitch said, "demand and price is increasing while their crucial ecological role has largely been ignored."

The scientists conducted a worldwide analysis of the science and management of forage fish, studying an assortment of fisheries including anchovetas in Peru and California's sardines.

California's booming sardine fishery famously collapsed in the mid-20th century. Although it has since rebounded, scientists are still studying exactly what combination of overfishing and shifting environmental conditions brought the decline.

The report's recommendations, likely to face resistance from the $5.6 billion industry, echo a recent push by environmental groups for new protections on forage fish.

A bill before the California Legislature would require the state to leave more small fish in the water for natural predators to feed on. Last year, the conservation group Oceana sued the federal government to tighten protections for anchovies and sardines fished off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington.

Still, the U.S. West Coast is ahead of other parts of the world in how it manages some forage fish, scientists on the panel said. The sardine catch, for instance, is subject to stricter monitoring and more conservative limits that could serve as a buffer against future crashes.

California's most valuable catch, squid, is also considered a forage fish but was not included in the analysis.

Life & Style

Competition to find Earhart hot after 75 years

HOUSTON (AP)—Jon Thompson has traveled the world collecting art and artifacts for museum exhibits, seen the remains of the Titanic on the sea floor and participated in two unsuccessful missions to find Amelia Earhart.

Now 72 and battling prostate cancer, Thompson is convinced he and a team from deep-sea exploration company Nauticos will finally be successful in finding the Kansas-born aviator's plane, which disappeared with Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan in July 1937. He's among the researchers looking for Earhart as the 75th anniversary of her disappearance approaches, and competition between search parties is fierce.

"Admittedly, it's a needle in a haystack, but with the technology we have employed and the brains we have involved, if we don't find it, no one will," Thompson said.

Theories about what happened to Earhart and Noonan are varied. They disappeared while flying from New Guinea to Howland Island as part of the adventurer's attempt to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the globe.

Last month, the International Group for Historic Aircraft, headed by longtime Earhart seeker Ric Gillespie, said a U.S. State Department analysis of an image off the remote island of Nikumaroro, in what is now the Pacific nation of Kiribati, looks like it could be aircraft landing gear. Gillespie's team will return in July to renew its search.

A few months later, Thompson will be a sonar operator on a ship headed by David Jourdan, a deep-sea explorer who used high-tech equipment in 1999 to find the Israeli submarine, the Dakar, which went missing in 1968.

"It seems to be the greatest unsolved mystery of the last century," Thompson said.

Thompson and Jourdan are among the many historians and researchers who believe Earhart's plane crashed into the ocean, which they say explains why extensive searches shortly after the disappearance failed to uncover remains or debris.

Gillespie's group believes Earhart and Noonan may have managed to land on a reef abutting the atoll, then known as Gardner Island, and survived for a short time. They surmise the plane was washed off the reef shortly after landing and that the wreckage may be in the deep waters nearby. That is what they will look for during their 10-day expedition in July.

Conspiracy theories that Earhart and Noonan were U.S. government agents captured by the Japanese before the World War II have been largely debunked.

Thompson and his group plan to spend two months searching a 400- to 600-square-mile area within 20 miles of Howland Island. It's the final section of an area where research from three institutions suggests the plane could have crashed. Thompson's two previous missions searched about 2,200 square miles nearby. Before fall, Thompson will complete proton therapy treatment for prostate cancer at Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center. He will also work with students at the University of Texas' Cockrell School of Engineering to analyze two theories about Earhart. One investigates how far the plane would glide before sinking based on ocean drifts and other aspects of crashing on water. The other looks at where the aircraft could have flipped and broken on impact if Earhart were too exhausted and weak to operate the machine.

Vishnu Jyothindran, a senior studying aerospace engineering who is leading the research, is excited by the uncertainty.

"In class, you expect you'll get a question that you can solve with data in the textbook," he said in a statement. "We don't have that guarantee here and that's unfortunate, but it's also just reality."

If artifacts are found, Thompson already knows what the exhibit would look like. The artifacts would travel on a three-story barge and dock at dozens of North American cities. It would be called "Patience, Persistence, Passion." Visitors would enter an area that looks like Earhart's childhood home, go through a portion showcasing technology that helped find the crash site, and finally go into a place where the aircraft—or a replica of it—would be displayed.

Human remains and any wood would have disintegrated at 18,000 feet, Thompson said. But Earhart's jewelry, helmet and even her leather jacket could still be found.

Chicago jury is chosen in Hudson family murder trial

CHICAGO (AP)—Jury selection wrapped up Tuesday for the Chicago trial of the man accused of killing the mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew of actress and singer Jennifer Hudson.

The final four panelists were chosen on the second day of one-by-one questioning of prospective jurors. Among them was a member of an acrobatics group and someone who served years ago on the jury of another murder trial.

Hudson

The 14 selected earlier to hear evidence against William Balfour included a school teacher, an unemployed bank teller searching for a job who lives three blocks from court and a young chocolate-company employee who said her favorite activity outside work was eating and sleeping.

The specter of Hudson's star power and how it could affect proceedings loomed over the two days of jury selection this week.

Before he let those chosen Tuesday head home, Judge Charles Burns warned them not to switch on "American Idol" this Thursday because Hudson may appear on the show, on which she first rose to fame as a contestant in 2004.

"Please don't watch it," he said firmly.

Hudson's celebrity took center stage in many juror interviews.

Most potential jurors insisted that despite what they knew about Hudson or had heard about the case, they could assess Balfour's guilt or innocence strictly according evidence presented in court. Others were not deemed as impartial.

Miss Universe pageant allowing transgender women

NEW YORK (AP)—A rule change that would allow transgender women to participate in the Miss Universe beauty pageant next year is a step forward for equality, advocates said Tuesday after pageant officials announced the policy shift.

Pageant officials said they are working on the language of the official rule policy change but expected final word to come soon. The rules will have to be approved by Donald Trump, who runs the Miss Universe Organization, and NBC. Trump and NBC co-own the contest.

The announcement of the policy change comes a week after the organization decided to allow Jenna Talackova to compete for Canada's spot in the Miss Universe pageant this year.

Talackova, a Vancouver resident, underwent a sex change four years ago after being born a male. The advocacy group GLAAD called on the Miss Universe Organization to review her case, as well as open the competition to transgender women, after she was disqualified from competing in the Miss Universe Canada contest next month.

"We want to give credit where credit is due, and the decision to include transgender women in our beauty competitions is a result of our ongoing discussions with GLAAD," said Paula Shugart, president of the Miss Universe Organization. "We have a long history of supporting equality for all women, and this was something we took very seriously."

The Miss Universe Organization produces the pageant, as well as the Miss USA and the Miss Teen competitions, according to the organization's website. The Miss Universe pageant began in 1952 as a local "bathing beauty" contest, headed by California-based Catalina Swimwear, the site says.

AP

In this April 3, 2012, file photo, Jenna Talackova, who advanced to the finals of the Miss Canada competition, part of the Miss Universe contest, shows her passport that lists her gender as female, during a news conference in Los Angeles.

Trials for next year's Miss Universe pageant begin this summer.

"Everybody should be allowed to participate in every aspect of society," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Absolutely it's good news, it's another pernicious structural discrimination barrier taken down."

Susan Stryker, director of the Institute for LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona, said she hoped to see similar progress in areas that would impact more people—like employment discrimination issues and anti-transgender violence.

"The next question is, can't we move beyond beauty pageants and make changes in areas that have more relevance," she asked.

She pointed out that while trans people should be able to take part fully in society, there are issues with beauty pageants overall, questions of "whether beauty pageants are the best way to advance the cause of girls, of women."

But she said trans women participating in the pageants could make a difference, and help shatter stereotypes and educate the public. She pointed to Chaz Bono, a transgender man, and the impact of his appearance on "Dancing with the Stars." "To that extent, it's just a great thing to have a positive media representation even if it is inconsequential," she said.

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American Reunion

Friday and Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

The American Pie series comes full circle as the characters from the 1999 comedy classic return to East Great Falls for their 10 year high school reunion, and experience a weekend they will never forget. While some like Jim (Jason Biggs) and Michelle (Alysson Hannigan) got serious and tied the knot, others like Oz (Chris Klein) and Heather (Mena Suvari) went their separate ways. Meanwhile, Finch (Eddie Kaye Thomas) still looks back with lust at that perfect evening he spent with Stiffler's mom. Sean William Scott, Tara Reid, Thomas Ian Nicholas, and Shannon Elizabeth also star in a film featuring Eugene Levy and Natasha Lyonne.

★ ★ ★

Wrath Of The Titans

Friday and Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures presents this follow-up to their mythological sword-and-sandal remake with this sequel penned by Dan Mazeau and David Leslie Johnson. Jonathan Liebesman (Battle: Los Angeles) handles direction duties, with Sam Worthington and Gemma Arterton returning as Perseus and Io.

Mirror Mirror

Friday and Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Julia Roberts, Lily Collins
Fantasy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games

Friday and Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

21 Jump Street

Friday and Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Channing Tatum
Comedy, Action • Rated R

The Vow

Friday and Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Rachel McAdams, Channing Tatum
Drama • Rated PG 13

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax

Friday and Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Zac Efron, Taylor Swift
Children's/Family • Rated PG

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Ukraine blocks film on soccer match vs Nazis

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—It's a game that every Ukrainian knows about: The "Death Match" of 1942, when top Kiev soccer players trounced a team of Nazi occupiers and reportedly paid for it with their lives.

But Ukrainian authorities on Tuesday froze the release of a movie depicting that Soviet defiance of Nazi Germany because of concerns it could ignite explosive emotions just weeks before Ukraine co-hosts the 2012 European Championship.

Officials fear that "The Match," which extolls the heroism of Ukrainian soccer players but portrays many Kiev residents as Nazi collaborators would teach Ukrainian audiences the wrong image of their country and history.

Some experts also fear that it may stoke hostility toward German players fans as Ukraine hosts several games played by Germany's national team.

The movie tells the story of the Aug. 9, 1942, match, which pitted a Wehrmacht team against players from Kiev's top club Dynamo and other athletes. The Ukrainian team won 5-3 despite reported warnings from the SS that they must lose to their occupiers. Most team members were soon arrested.

"Some things are worth dying for," the actor playing team captain Nikolai Ranevich says in the film, his eyes filling with tears, as he convinces his team to beat the Nazis in a show of resistance and patriotism.

A Soviet journalist dubbed the game the "Death Match" and Soviet authorities long cultivated the legend that the entire team was executed by the Nazis soon afterward. A monument to those players now stands outside the Dynamo stadium.

Historians now say that while defeating the Nazi team was undoubtedly courageous, there is no evidence to suggest all the players were executed in revenge.

Nine of the players were arrested about a week after the match. One soon died in custody and three others were shot in a Kiev concentration camp some six months later, according to Volodymyr Prystaiko, a former Soviet security officer who wrote a book on the match.

German investigators concluded in 2005 there was no evidence linking the death of the three players to the match.

The film's distributor wanted "The Match" to premiere in Ukraine on May 3 and the state cinema agency was to announce its decision on whether to approve the movie last week. But agency spokeswoman Larisa Titarenko said Tuesday the regulator will take another 25 working days to analyze the movie.

Yaroslav Pidhora-Gvyazdovskiy, a member of the expert commission reviewing "The Match," says he recommended banning the movie because it promotes ethnic strife. Most of the characters who collaborate with the Nazis speak Ukrainian while the admirable characters in it speak Russian and fearlessly oppose the invaders, he said.

AP

In this photo provided by Central Partnership and Inter-Film and taken June 19, 2011 photo, shows an episode from the movie "Match".

Surprise! Keith Urban gets a shocker at benefit

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Keith Urban was slyly dropping hints about the surprises he had in store at the All For The Hall benefit concert this week, but little did he know the night's biggest surprise was aimed at him.

Vince Gill and members of Rascal Flatts, The Oak Ridge Boys and Diamond Rio surprised Urban Tuesday night with the announcement he will officially join The Grand Ole Opry later this month, a revelation that clearly took the Australian country star by surprise.

"I'm shocked, I've got to say," Urban told the sold-out crowd at Bridgestone Arena. "It's a huge honor and how beautiful to have this happen tonight of all nights."

As for Urban's surprises, he brought Merle Haggard and childhood hero Don Williams on stage, fittingly trotting out a couple of inductees for the fundraiser to benefit the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum.

"This is one of the biggest thrills of my life, getting to play a little guitar with this guy coming out," Gill said before brining Haggard on stage.

Haggard played four songs, including crowd favorite "Workin' Man's Blues." Williams, a childhood idol of Urban's, performed two songs, including "Tulsa Time."

"I heard more records in my house growing up by this guy than anybody," Urban told the crowd before bringing Williams on stage.

With the exception of the night's surprise guests, the theme of Urban and Gill's third installment of the benefit was duos, vocal groups and bands.

Urban and Gill served as co-musical directors and house band leaders, sitting in on almost every song and merging their bands for the night.

"Thanks so much to Keith and Vince," Miranda Lambert said. "That's hot!"

Other groups joining Lambert's Pistol Annies on the night's set list included Lady Antebellum, The Band Perry, Thompson Square and Little Big Town. Alabama was the only group not to use the supercharged backing band. Turns out they didn't need them on their somber hits "Lady Down on Love" and "Feels So Right."

"Man, there is nothing like the sound of those voices," Gill said after Alabama wrapped up. "Good Lord!"

Still, little compared with the moment when Gill called all the Opry members in the house back on stage following Rascal Flatts' performance. That trio, also recently invited to join the Opry, brought out a black duffel bag with a surprise inside for Urban. He opened it to find an Opry microphone stand.

Musician Herbie Hancock has book deal for a memoir

NEW YORK (AP)—After decades of making history, Herbie Hancock is ready to tell it.

The award-winning, groundbreaking jazz performer and composer has a deal with Viking for a memoir expected in 2014.

"Quincy Jones is a dear friend of mine and he keeps saying to me, `You've got to do a book,'" Hancock said Tuesday during a telephone interview from Shanghai, where he is currently on tour.

"I've had a life that has taken many interesting paths. I've learned a lot from mentors who were instrumental in shaping me and I want to share what I've learned."

Hancock, who turns 72 this week, has won 14 Grammys and for decades has been mixing jazz with blues, soul, funk and electronic music. He won an Academy Award in 1986 for the score to "'Round Midnight."

He is known for his pioneering work with Miles Davis, for such standards as "Cantaloupe Island" and "Chameleon" and for the hit instrumental "Rockit," the video of which helped make him the rare jazz performer to catch on with MTV fans. Hancock is currently a goodwill ambassador for UNESCO.

He has not only played with such jazz greats as Davis, Coleman Hawkins and Donald Byrd, but with such pop performers as Joni Mitchell, Sting and Stevie Wonder. His 2010 album, "The Imagine Project," includes contributions from Seal, John Legend and Dave Matthews.

"I am hoping this book will not only appeal to jazz fans," he said.

He will work on the book with a collaborator, still to be determined. Financial terms were not disclosed for the memoir, which interested several publishers, but was landed by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA). Hancock was represented by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose clients range from President Obama to Barbra Streisand.

The book will be, in part, a spiritual journey. Hancock will tell of being a Buddhist and how he does not see himself primarily as a musician, even though he has been playing piano since age 7.

Another star is shown the door on 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sherri Shepherd is typically full of laughs on "Dancing With the Stars," but on the latest episode, it was tears instead.

"The View" co-host was dismissed from the ABC competition Tuesday.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine who is ousted each week.

Shepherd's eyes filled with tears when she learned she was among the lowest scorers. She said dancing on the show was a dream, and she urged viewers to tackle their fears the way she did "because it's so amazing on the other side."

Returning to compete on next week's Latin-themed episode will be actors Jaleel White, Roshon Fegan, William Levy and Melissa Gilbert; singers Gladys Knight, Gavin DeGraw and Katherine Jenkins; TV personality Maria Menounos; and football star Donald Driver.

AP

In this April 9, 2012 photo released by ABC, TV personality Sherri Shepherd and her partner Val Chmerkovskiy perform on the celebrity dance competition series "Dancing with the Stars," in Los Angeles.

Robin Gibb too ill to attend Titanic concert

LONDON (AP)—Bee Gees star Robin Gibb was too ill to attend the London premiere of "The Titanic Requiem," his first classical work, his son said Tuesday.

Robin Gibb composed the symphonic piece with his son, Robin-John Gibb, and was scheduled to perform a new song, "Don't Cry Alone," during the premier concert at The Royal Albert Hall.

But in a message read out to the audience, Robin-John said his 62-year-old father is still in hospital.

"He sends all his love," he said ahead of the performance. "We are all praying for him and hoping he has a speedy recovery."

Robin Gibb's publicist Doug Wright said he is in stable condition in the hospital. He did not provide more details.

Gibb had intestinal surgery last month, and was hospitalized late last year for stomach and colon problems. He has not disclosed the nature of his illness, but has said a growth on his colon has been removed.

The requiem, performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, commemorates the April 1912 sinking of the ocean liner and the loss of more than 1,500 lives.

The Bee Gees had a string of hits in the disco era including "Stayin' Alive."

Lucasfilm abandons controversial studio project

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A company owned by filmmaker George Lucas said Tuesday it has abandoned plans to build a big digital production studio on historic farmland in Marin County, citing opposition from neighbors worried about its impact on the environment.

Lucasfilm Ltd., the force behind the Star Wars movies, said it pulled the plug on the Grady Ranch project and planned to construct new facilities elsewhere.

"We have several opportunities to build the production stages in communities that see us as a creative asset, not as an evil empire," the company said in a statement.

Lucasfilm said it hopes to sell the land in Lucas Valley to a developer interested in building housing for low-income residents.

The Marin County planning commission unanimously approved the studio project in February. Backers said it would generate jobs and revenue for the local economy.

But plans for the 270,000-square-foot complex prompted fierce opposition from homeowners who said it would generate noise, traffic and environmental damage on the pristine countryside about a half-mile north of the Golden Gate Bridge.

'Simpsons' creator: Real Springfield is in Ore.

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. (AP)—One of the best-kept secrets in television history has been revealed, with "The Simpsons" creator Matt Groening pointing to Springfield, Ore., as the inspiration for the animated hometown of Homer and his dysfunctional family.

Groening told Smithsonian magazine, published online Tuesday, that he was inspired by the television show "Father Knows Best," which took place in a place called Springfield. Springfield, Ore., is 100 miles south of Groening's hometown of Portland.

"When I grew up, I realized it was just a fictitious name," Groening told the magazine. "I also figured out that Springfield was one of the most common names for a city in the U.S.

"In anticipation of the success of the show, I thought, `This will be cool; everyone will think it's their Springfield.' And they do," he said.

Groening said he has long given fake answers when asked about the Simpsons' hometown, leaving open the possibility that his latest one is itself another fake.

The show has made a running joke of hiding the true Springfield's location. In one episode, daughter Lisa points to Springfield on a map, but the animated "camera view" is blocked by son Bart's head.

The series has been on the air for 22 years, becoming the longest-running American sitcom, the longest-running American animated program and a cultural phenomenon with colleges devoting courses to studying it.

People in the real Springfield—the one in Oregon—took on the mantle of the show's hometown after Groening visited during a tour before the 2007 film "The Simpsons Movie."

Back then, tiny Springfield, Vt., beat out 13 other like-named cities, including the one in Oregon, to host the movie premiere. The cities submitted videos meant to connect themselves to the fictional Springfield.

When Springfield, Ore., community-relations manager Niel Laudati was told about Groening's announcement, he said: "Oh OK, we knew that."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Gary Ross says no to 'Catching Fire'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gary Ross says he won't direct "Catching Fire," the second installment in Lionsgate's blockbuster "The Hunger Games" franchise. In a statement Tuesday, Ross says "after difficult but sincere consideration," he decided not to direct the film. He blames limited time to write and prep the film because of the fixed, tight production schedule. Ross says making "The Hunger Games" was the happiest experience of his professional life. He also denies reports that negotiations with Lionsgate had been problematic. Lionsgate officials say in response that they're "very sorry" Ross has chosen not to direct "Catching Fire" but they look forward to working with him on future projects. "Catching Fire" is the second installment in the franchise based on Suzanne Collins' book series. It's scheduled for release in November 2013.

Coroner: Guitarist Montrose committed suicide

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The death of rock guitarist Ronnie Montrose, who formed an eponymous band in the 1970s and played with heavy hitters such as Van Morrison and Herbie Hancock, has been ruled a suicide. The San Francisco Chronicle reports the San Mateo County coroner has concluded that Montrose took his own life last month at his home in Millbrae, Calif. His widow, Leighsa Montrose, tells the newspaper that her 64-year-old husband was tormented by clinical depression for much of his life. She says he suffered from severe self-doubt that caused him to harshly evaluate his performances, even on nights audiences gave him multiple standing ovations. Leighsa Montrose says her husband left no suicide note. She says she was bewildered by his decision to take his life, especially since he spent two years being successfully treated for prostate cancer.

'Salmon Fishing in the Yemen' premieres in London

LONDON (AP)—Ewan McGregor and Emily Blunt are the headliners for the European premiere of the romantic comedy-drama "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen." The two stars were walking the red carpet outside London's Odeon Kensington on Tuesday night. Adapted from Paul Torday's acclaimed novel of the same name, the film by Swedish director Lasse Hallstrom tells the story of a rich sheik, played by Amr Waked, who dreams of bringing the sport of fly fishing to his desert country. McGregor plays a cynical fisheries expert who begrudgingly accepts the challenge. He eventually casts off his sardonic ways and falls in love with the project as well as with the Sheik's representative, played by Blunt. "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen" opens in the U.K. on April 20.

Migraine sufferer is given fresh remedies to chew on

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'd like to respond to the letter from "Hurting in Virginia Beach, Va." (Feb. 6), who complained that the smell of mint chewing gum triggers her migraines. Many gum chewers, like me, have good reasons for doing it. I chew gum on planes because it helps reduce sinus pressure, thus preventing my own headaches. I am also a former smoker, and gum-chewing is a healthier alternative to tobacco.

If "Hurting" explained her situation to me, I would certainly abide by her request to not chew, although I would find it uncomfortable to go without for long. I recommend she carry several packs of non-mint gum in her purse. When forced into close proximity with a gum-chewer, she could then offer him or her an acceptable alternative. I believe she will almost certainly find people more receptive to her needs that way.

DAVE IN SPRING HILL, FLA.

DEAR DAVE: Your commonsense suggestion was the one most often repeated by my readers. I advised "Hurting" that whether at a concert or on a plane, she could ask to be moved away from an "offender." My readers comment:

DEAR ABBY: I propose a different solution. She should purchase one (or several) of those surgical masks that cover the mouth and nose. They come in a variety of styles, and she could surely find one that would block her sense of smell. This way she won't have to risk a confrontation or depend on a third party to get involved. Once she detects the offensive smell, she can just put on her mask, no one gets bothered and everyone's happy.

TIM IN SALEM, ORE.

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with "Hurting." I am a migraine sufferer myself. The smell of many perfumes, lotions, cleaning agents, tobacco smoke—even some foods—can trigger a migraine. Because it is nearly impossible to control what other people wear, clean with or eat, I have found it much easier over the years to make sure I always carry some medication with me whenever I go out. Being able to take my medication the minute I sense a migraine coming on has prevented many events from ending badly for me.

FEELING HER PAIN IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY: I have a deadly allergy to oranges. The smell alone can bring me very close to anaphylactic shock, but more often just causes a migraine like "Hurting's." I have a small bottle of eucalyptus oil I take with me and place a drop or two under my nose. This will stop the reaction. Hope this information helps.

VERNELLE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY: Your advice was spot on as far as asking the gum chewer to discard the gum, or to be reseated in a theater. But often the house is full, or the plane has no empty seats and no one will switch. As I suffer from similar issues, my father found me a device called a personal air purifier. It hangs around your neck (or sits in your lap) and literally cleans the air you breathe. It is battery-operated and goes everywhere. It has saved me tons of embarrassment when dealing with other people in small spaces.

RACHEL IN CHERRY HILL, N.J.

DEAR ABBY: "Hurting" needs to take preventive action when she makes her concert reservation. Simply ask for an aisle seat (for her) and the one beside it (where her husband will sit). Of course, it will be slightly more difficult on a plane because of closer quarters, but she can still make sure her husband is sitting between her and the offender as a buffer, which might help a little.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHATCHA DOIN', DAD?
I'M BUSY TRYING TO FIX SOMETHING.
WHY BOTHER? ON THE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS, YOU USUALLY MAKE IT WORSE AND HURT YOURSELF IN THE PROCESS!
I WISH I'D NOTICED THE BANDAGE ON HIS HAND BEFORE I SAID THAT.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE, GARFIELD
YOU HAVE TO LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SAY...
YOU ARE BEATIFUL!
READY FOR OUR GROUP GAG?
JIM DAVIS 4.12
Distributed by Universal Uclick www.facebook.com/garfield
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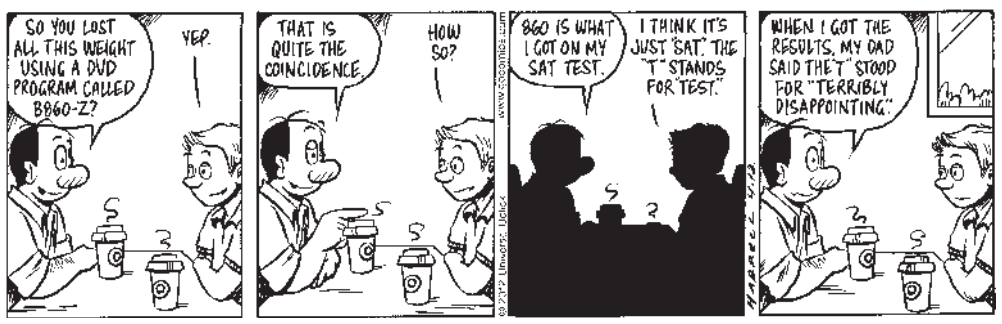
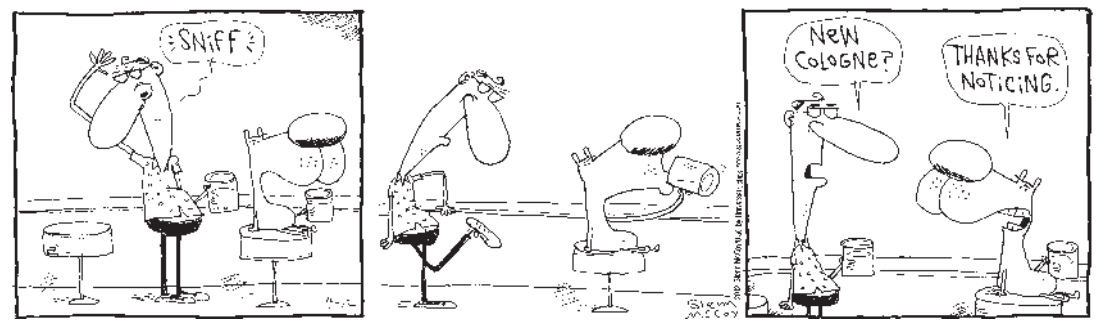
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO YOU LOST ALL THIS WEIGHT USING A DVD PROGRAM CALLED B@60-Z?
YEP.
THAT IS QUITE THE COINCIDENCE.
HOW SO?
@60 IS WHAT I GOT ON MY SAT TEST.
I THINK IT'S JUST "SAT." THE "T" STANDS FOR "TEST."
WHEN I GOT THE RESULTS, MY DAD SAID THE "T" STOOD FOR "TERRIBLY DISAPPOINTING."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

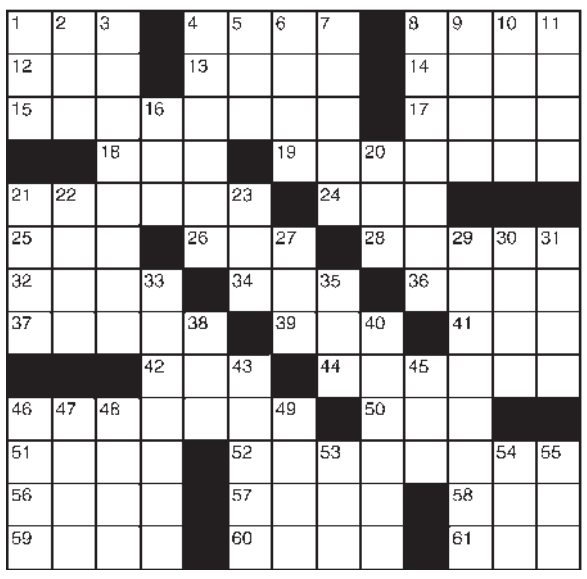
ACROSS
1 Distant
4 Primary
8 — vu
12 "Rocks"
13 Bullets and the like
14 Mosque bigwig
15 Blood group?
17 Tarzan's transport
18 Diving bird
19 Substantial bodies of work
21 Cronkite or Brennan
24 Parched
25 Beer's cousin
26 Cratchit lad
28 Medical worker
32 Apparel
34 Chum
36 Bartlett or Bosc
37 Don't slouch
39 Steal from
41 Cacophony
42 Pantheon member
44 Ping-Pong need
46 Parade of a sort
50 Not many
51 Common rhyme scheme
52 Warnings
56 Nevada city
57 — & the Gang
58 Knock
59 Lily type
60 Formerly
61 Aviate

DOWN
1 Christmas tree, often
2 Expert
3 Period of imminent danger
4 Sell
5 I love (Lat.)
6 Pointer Sisters' "— Excited"
7 Snooped (around)
8 Split evenly
9 Mideast ruler
10 "— Eyre"
11 Iowa city
16 Snip
20 Coffee shop vessel
21 Moves back and forth
22 Jai follower
23 Tear
27 Ruin the veneer
29 Low-temp star
30 Take to the seas
31 Sea eagle
33 Imaginary cause of fear
35 Prune
38 Camera-person's angle (Abbr.)
40 Confound
43 2001 movie, "Donnie —"
45 First st.
46 Jam ingredients?
47 Have — in one's bonnet
48 Pealed
49 Night light
53 Elmer, to Bugs
54 Guy's companion
55 Agent

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	O	O	■	R	I	D	F	■	M	A	S	T
U	R	N	■	E	N	V	Y	■	A	G	U	E
L	A	T	■	U	N	D	E	R	D	O	N	E
B	L	O	A	T	■	■	D	N	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	E	E	F	■	S	M	A	S	H
U	N	D	E	R	S	E	A	■	E	C	H	O
S	E	E	■	S	A	H	I	S	■	I	O	N
F	X	F	C	■	U	N	D	E	R	D	O	G
S	T	R	O	P	■	S	A	G	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	A	X	■	■	M	Y	R	H	■
U	N	D	E	R	M	I	N	E	■	I	O	U
S	O	O	T	■	A	K	I	N	■	T	A	G
A	R	C	H	■	S	E	P	T	■	A	D	O

Yesterday's answer 4-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Saoirse Ronan, 18; Claire Danes, 33; David Letterman, 65; Ed O'Neill, 66.

Happy Birthday: Watch your step. Someone may try to trip you mentally, physically or emotionally. Proceed with your eyes wide open, ready for any challenge that comes your way. Change is inevitable, preparation essential. Opportunity is present. Recognize what's being offered and be ready to take a leap of faith. Your numbers are 3, 7, 15, 22, 32, 34, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be careful not to push too hard. Someone will take you the wrong way and push back. Charm will get you so much further ahead. Once you have what you want, you must channel your angst into physically following through with your plans. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Get out and push your opinions and suggestions. Originality will attract attention and an interesting proposal. Communication is the key to advancement. Face-to-face conversations will bring the best results. Speak from the heart. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Focus more on your financial situation, where to put your money and how you can budget better in the future. Discipline and determination will pay off if you set your strategy to suit your needs. Don't let love cost you. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't be shy. Express your feelings and share your ideas. Change is upon you, and the end result can be favorable if you are willing to make a few adjustments. A partnership will offer more than you initially realize. Prepare to compromise. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Make plans to travel if it will help you find the information you require to advance. Good fortune awaits if you make the right choice now. A move will help you build a better future. When opportunity knocks, jump. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let a personal relationship stand in your way. You have to focus on detail and doing a good job if you want to get ahead. Walk away from anyone playing emotional games with you or ruining your chance to advance. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Look at the big picture and concentrate on learning something that will help you move in a direction that allows you to do the things you enjoy. Change may be frightening and costly, but it will lead to satisfaction. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): An old friend can play an interesting role in your future plans. Discuss your ideas and take a position that will allow you to work with someone you respect and who you feel is the right fit for what you are trying to accomplish. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Tie up loose ends at work and deal with any problem you have with a colleague before a misunderstanding gets out of control. The changes you make at home will be met with opposition if you don't ask for approval first. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Call the shots before someone starts making decisions for you. Making improvements at home and to your financial situation will ease your stress and allow you greater freedom to explore new avenues. An investment will pay off. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Use what you have and market your talents. Greater determination will allow you to masterfully acquire what you want from someone you enjoy spending time with. Discipline and hard work will win favors and friendships while achieving your goals. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You have to weigh the pros and cons of any partnership you form and make sure that whoever you are dealing with is thinking of your best interests. Someone who is jealous or threatened by your achievements will hold you back. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are torn between practical and impractical. You work hard and play hard.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			5		1			
		5				8		
	7		2		4		1	
4		6				3		7
				9				
7		8				5		6
	6		9		3		8	
		3				7		
			1		8			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	9	6	4	5	8	7	1	2
1	5	2	3	7	9	8	4	6
4	7	8	6	1	2	3	5	9
6	4	1	7	9	3	5	2	8
7	2	5	1	8	6	4	9	3
8	3	9	2	4	5	1	6	7
2	6	4	5	3	7	9	8	1
9	1	3	8	2	4	6	7	5
5	8	7	9	6	1	2	3	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ANGELO DUNDEE (1921-2012) **Solution: 9 letters**

S	L	M	C	C	O	D	L	O	G	F	E	E	T	P
R	T	E	I	H	E	T	N	A	I	L	L	I	R	B
N	N	R	A	N	R	E	R	S	L	Y	L	O	A	U
A	H	H	A	H	D	I	T	I	T	A	F	N	I	C
M	E	O	S	T	C	S	S	S	D	E	R	A	N	K
A	L	N	L	A	E	I	M	A	S	M	E	R	E	E
L	P	O	I	P	R	G	M	S	L	I	G	T	R	T
L	S	R	D	R	U	M	I	L	R	R	A	S	L	M
E	E	S	E	I	A	O	I	E	O	(E)	N	A	O	A
R	H	T	D	H	N	B	T	T	(S)	N	A	P	Y	N
E	C	E	U	A	O	S	N	(O)	T	A	M	P	A	B
D	N	M	L	S	A	E	(J)	I	M	M	Y	M	L	A
N	U	A	S	M	M	S	U	G	A	R	R	A	Y	N
I	P	I	N	K	L	O	N	N	B	O	X	I	N	G
C	O	N	T	E	N	D	E	R	F	I	G	H	T	S

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Bang, Bill, Bossio, Boxing, Brilliant, Bucket Man, Chris, Cinderella Man, Contender, Ellis, Fights, Fists, Forman, Gold, Guide, Helps, Honors, Jimmy, Jose, Loaned, Loyal, Manager, Master, Mentor, Michael, Minds, Mirena, Muhammad Ali, Pastrano, Path, Pinklon, Professional, Punches, Slide, Strategies, Style, Sugar Ray, Tampa, Terri, Trainer

Yesterday's Answer: Hometown

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 24, 28, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 or 35 for $8.95 each, plus $3.95 shipping and handling per order, send a check or money order payable to Universal Uclick, 8909 Purslane Circle, Suite 300, Kansas City, MO 64154 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.andrewsmcmeel.com. Contains 45 puzzles, 64 of which are themeless, 27 are 23-clue;

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WHATZIT Solution: Ships that pass in the night

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This is to inform the general public that Kenneth Mitsutsune is no longer affiliated or associated in any manner with Magical Bower, LLC dba Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel effective September 01, 2011. Any transaction, contracts or agreements for any services accepted or made by him on behalf of the company after the date mentioned above are considered null and void.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FRANCISCA NEBRIDA GAOLONG Petitioner,	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0587
vs.	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
FENG GAOLONG Respondent.	)	

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT: FENG GAOLONG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501731, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief I the complaint.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2012.

/s/Clerk of Court

Sabina Camacho
P.O. Box 505693
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 235-9378 or 989-0120

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR:	]	FCD GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 12 - 0073
TRUMAN CAMACHO SHIRO Minor Child,	]	NOTICE OF HEARING
by	]	
SABINA W. CAMACHO Petitioner	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in Courtroom 217 before Associate Judge Perry Inos.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court
By: /s/Clerk of Court

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Marlins' Ozzie Guillen apologizes over Castro flap

MIAMI(AP)—A contrite Ozzie Guillen sat in the heart of Little Havana seeking forgiveness for what the Miami Marlins manager called the biggest mistake of his life—saying he admired Fidel Castro.

This wasn't some offhanded insult about a sports writer, the type of thing that got the outspoken Guillen in trouble in Chicago. This was personal to the fan base that the Marlins rely on so much that they built their new stadium in the middle of the city's Cuban-American neighborhood.

Castro is the sworn enemy of those fans.

So after being suspended for five games Tuesday, the Marlins manager tried to quell the tempest.

"I'm here on my knees to apologize," Guillen said.

"I'm very sorry about the problem, what happened. I will do everything in my power to make it better. ... When you make a mistake like this, you can't sleep."

A chastened Guillen, who has a history of polarizing comments about gays and immigrants, among others, spoke without a script and made no disclaimers. He said he'll do whatever he can to repair relations with Cuban-Americans angered by his praise of the Cuban dictator, remarks he said he didn't mean.

Guillen, who is Venezuelan, told *Time* magazine he loves Castro and respects the retired Cuban leader for staying in power so long. In response, at least two Miami politicians said Guillen should lose his job. Callers on Spanish-language radio in Miami agreed and 100 demonstrators picketed Marlins Park toting signs like "NO APOLOGIES FIRE HIM NOW."

"He is full with hypocrisy," said Luis Martinez, who has lived in Miami since the late 1950s. "I don't accept any kind of pardon from him. They should get him out."

The team didn't consider firing Guillen or asking him to resign five games into his tenure, Marlins president David Samson said.

Guillen was hired to help usher in a new baseball era for the Marlins, saddled in recent years with mediocre teams and worse attendance. The team was to rely on South Florida's large Cuban-American population to help rebuild its fan base with the $634 million ballpark that opened last week.

AP

Protestors hold signs outside Marlins Stadium in Miami, where Marlins manager Ozzie Guillen was speaking at a news conference, Tuesday April 10, 2012.

At the hourlong news conference Tuesday morning, there was little evidence of Guillen's roguish charm or quick wit, which have made him a favorite with fans and reporters since he became a major league manager in 2004. Speaking somberly, he took full responsibility for his comments, but said they were misinterpreted by *Time*'s reporter.

"It was a personal mistake of the thing I had in my mind and what I said," Guillen said in Spanish. "What I wanted to say in Spanish, I said in English in a wrong way."

Guillen said he doesn't love or admire Castro.

"I was saying I cannot believe somebody who hurt so many people over the years is still alive," he said.

Time said Tuesday it stands by its story.

Guillen said the uproar he created has left him sad, embarrassed and feeling stupid. He said he accepted the team's punishment.

"When you're a sportsman, you shouldn't be involved with politics," he said.

"I'm going to be a Miami guy for the rest of my life. I want to walk in the street with my head up and feel not this bad, the way I feel now."

Cuban-born Atlanta Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez, a former manager of the Marlins, said he watched some of the news conference and could tell it was difficult for Guillen.

"He came out and faced the music," Gonzalez said. "It's going to take awhile, but hopefully he can win those people back somehow."

Guillen has gotten in trouble before on issues ranging from sexual orientation to illegal immigration. Just last week, he boasted about getting drunk after games.

Those episodes quickly faded. But on South Florida's scale of political incorrectness, praise for Castro is a home run, and it was unclear how long it would take for anger toward Guillen to subside.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said the remarks "have no place in our game" and were "offensive to an important part of the Miami community and others throughout the world."

"As I have often said, baseball is a social institution with important social responsibilities," Selig added in a statement. "All of our 30 clubs play significant roles within their local communities, and I expect those who represent Major League Baseball to act with the kind of respect and sensitivity that the game's many cultures deserve."

Marlins officials said Guillen still had the support of the organization.

"We believe in him," said Samson, the team president. "We believe in his apology. We believe everybody deserves a second chance." He said he expected no further punishment from MLB.

Guillen apologized over the weekend after his remarks were published in *Time*, then left his team in Philadelphia, where the Marlins were playing the Phillies, and flew to Miami.

The teams resume their three-game series Wednesday in Philadelphia. Guillen said he'll be there to apologize to his players, but he won't be in the dugout. Bench coach Joey Cora will be the interim manager.

"The Marlins acknowledge the seriousness of the comments attributed to Guillen," read a statement from the team. "The pain and suffering caused by Fidel Castro cannot be minimized, especially in a community filled with victims of the dictatorship."

The suspension, which takes effect immediately, recalled the punishment given to Marge Schott, the late owner of the Cincinnati Reds. Schott so embarrassed baseball in the 1990s with her inflammatory racial remarks and fond recollections of Adolf Hitler that she was suspended from ownership duties for a season.

"After spending years of my life with Ozzie Guillen, I can honestly say he has never been this apologetic," tweeted former slugger Frank Thomas, who played for Guillen with the Chicago White Sox. "I know he is really hurting inside for what he said. If you really know him this was not his intentions at all."

In Cuba, the evening newscast aired an interview by Venezuela-based Telesur with Emilio Garcia, a Cuban journalist in Miami.

"It is another sad page in the history of this community (Miami) that more and more is transforming into a banana republic," Garcia said. "It was pathetic this morning to see this sportsman humiliate himself, humiliate himself to the core to try to keep his job."

"How does the much-ballyhooed 'yankee' freedom of expression look now," Cuban anchor Julita Osendi said in summary before moving on to the next item.

About 100 reporters, photographers and cameramen attended Guillen's news conference, a turnout to rival some late-season Marlins crowds in years gone by.

Guillen sat alone at the podium and began in Spanish, speaking without notes for several minutes before taking questions. Shortly after he started, his voice wavered mid-sentence. He paused to take a sip of water and clear his throat.

"This is the biggest mistake I've made so far in my life," Guillen said.

Guillen spoke in Spanish for about 80 percent of the news conference. Guillen said he was suspended without pay, but Samson later said the manager will be paid and will donate the money to Miami human-rights causes.

Beltran, Freese power Cards past Reds

CINCINNATI (AP)—St. Louis' Carlos Beltran and David Freese homered again on Tuesday, leading the Cardinals to a 3-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds.

Beltran, earmarked as the man to provide the power after the departure of Albert Pujols, hit his third homer of the new season off Mike Leake (0-1). Freese, last year's World Series MVP, added a two-run shot—also his third.

St. Louis came into the game leading the majors with nine homers. It has five in its first two games at Great American Ball Park.

Cardinals starter Kyle Lohse (2-0) provided a another stingy performance, allowing one run in six innings. The team's rotation has been sensational so far, with a combined ERA of 1.86.

Nationals 6, Mets 2

In New York, Ross Detwiler pitched five scoreless innings as Washington inflicted New York's first loss.

Detwiler (1-0) struck out six and walked one.

Dodgers 2, Pirates 1

In Los Angeles, Andre Ethier hit a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the eighth inning, sending Los Angeles to victory over Pittsburgh in its home opener.

Exactly 50 years after Dodger Stadium opened, Ethier hit a solo shot on his 30th birthday, off Jason Grilli (0-1).

Brewers 7, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Alex Gonzalez hit a three-run homer in Milwaukee's five-run first inning, setting up the Brewers' win over Chicago.

The Brewers sent 10 batters to the plate in the first inning against Paul Maholm (0-1).

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 2, 11 innings

In San Diego, Chris Young hit a two-run homer in the 11th inning as Arizona edged San Diego and remained undefeated.

After Micah Owings (0-1) hit leadoff batter Gerardo Parra, Young sent the next pitch into the stands.

Braves 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Chipper Jones came off the disabled list and began his final season in the majors with a single and a two-run homer to help Atlanta top Houston for its first win.

The nearly 40-year-old Jones singled in his first at-bat and hit a left-handed homer—the 455th of his career—in the third inning to put the Braves up 3-1.

Tigers 5, Rays 2

In Detroit, Tigers' Miguel Cabrera doubled and scored in a snowy eighth-inning rally that lifted the Tigers a win over the Tampa Bay Rays.

Cabrera was driven home by Prince Fielder's tiebreaking single amidst the snow flurries. Jhonny Peralta added a sacrifice fly later in the inning, and Gerald Laird's RBI single gave the Tigers a three-run lead.

Rangers 1, Mariners 0

In Arlington, Texas, Neftali Feliz pitched seven crisp innings in his first major league start, leading Texas past Seattle.

Feliz (1-0) was pitching for the first time since the former closer failed to hold a two-run lead in Game 6 of the World Series.

Yankees 5, Orioles 4, 12 innings

In Baltimore, Raul Ibanez doubled in the tiebreaking run in the 12th inning to lift New York over Baltimore.

Robinson Cano led off the 12th with a double off Pedro Strop (0-1). With two outs, Ibanez hit a liner that bounced into the stands.

Royals 3, Athletics 0, 7 innings

In Oakland, Danny Duffy pitched six scoreless innings to lead Kansas City past Oakland in a rain-shortened game.

Duffy (1-0) struck out eight in his first game of the season.

Mike Moustakas hit an RBI double in the fourth and Mitch Maier added a solo homer in the seventh for the Royals.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 3

In Toronto, Kyle Drabek pitched into the sixth inning to steer Toronto past Boston.

Drabek (1-0) yielded one run in 5 1-3 innings, retiring nine straight in one stretch.

Edwin Encarnacion homered for the Blue Jays.

Boston dropped to 1-4, another slow start for a team that opened last season with six straight losses. Starter Daniel Bard allowed five runs in five-plus innings.

Garnett, Celtics shoot past Heat, 115-107

MIAMI (AP)—A week ago, the Boston Celtics beat the Miami Heat with defense. This time, they did it with offense.

Paul Pierce scored 27 points, Kevin Garnett added 24 points and nine rebounds, and the Celtics made their first eight shots of the fourth quarter to hold off the Heat 115-107 on Tuesday night.

Rajon Rondo posted double-digit assists for the 18th straight game, extending the NBA's longest such streak in 20 years with an 18-point, 15-assist effort. Brandon Bass added 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Avery Bradley scored 11 for the Celtics, who shot a season-high 61 percent and survived two possessions where Miami could have tied the score in the final quarter.

"We talk about it in fighting terms," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "We told them today before the game, you're in a boxing match, you expect to get hit. They're going to hit you. They did and we withstood it. I thought that was important for our team."

LeBron James finished with 36 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for Miami, which got 20 from Dwyane Wade and 18 from Mario Chalmers. Chris Bosh finished with 13 on 5-for-13 shooting for Miami, which has gone 5-5 in its last 10 games.

The Celtics beat Miami 91-72 in Boston on April 1, a game the Heat called "unacceptable" after establishing season-lows in scoring and shooting.

This one won't sit much better with the reigning Eastern Conference champions, who ousted the Celtics in five games from last year's playoffs and could see them in the second round of the upcoming postseason. No team had shot better than 55 percent against the Heat this season, and Boston's 115 points were two shy of matching a season-high against Miami.

"We left Boston feeling awful at our performance," James said. "I don't feel as bad tonight. Those guys, they were locked in. Not only did they make their open shots, they made their contested shots. ... When you've got it going like that, just tip your hat off. We tip our hat off to them tonight. They won it."

Boston improved to 18-7 since the All-Star break, and dealt Miami a blow in the race for the No. 1 seed in the East. The Heat fell three games behind Chicago after the Bulls beat the New York Knicks later Tuesday night.

"It took a while," Rondo said, "but we're peaking at the right time."

A layup by Wade got Miami within 108-103 with 2:22 left, before Garnett made a high-arcing jumper that dropped softly through the net, his 11th make in 14 shots.

That pretty much described the night. Whenever Miami got close, the Celtics found a way to hold them off.

"It's a game of runs," Pierce said. "You have one of the best teams in the NBA at home. You know they're going to make a run. That's what makes them who they are. They know how to turn it on. We did a good job of holding their runs to a minimum."

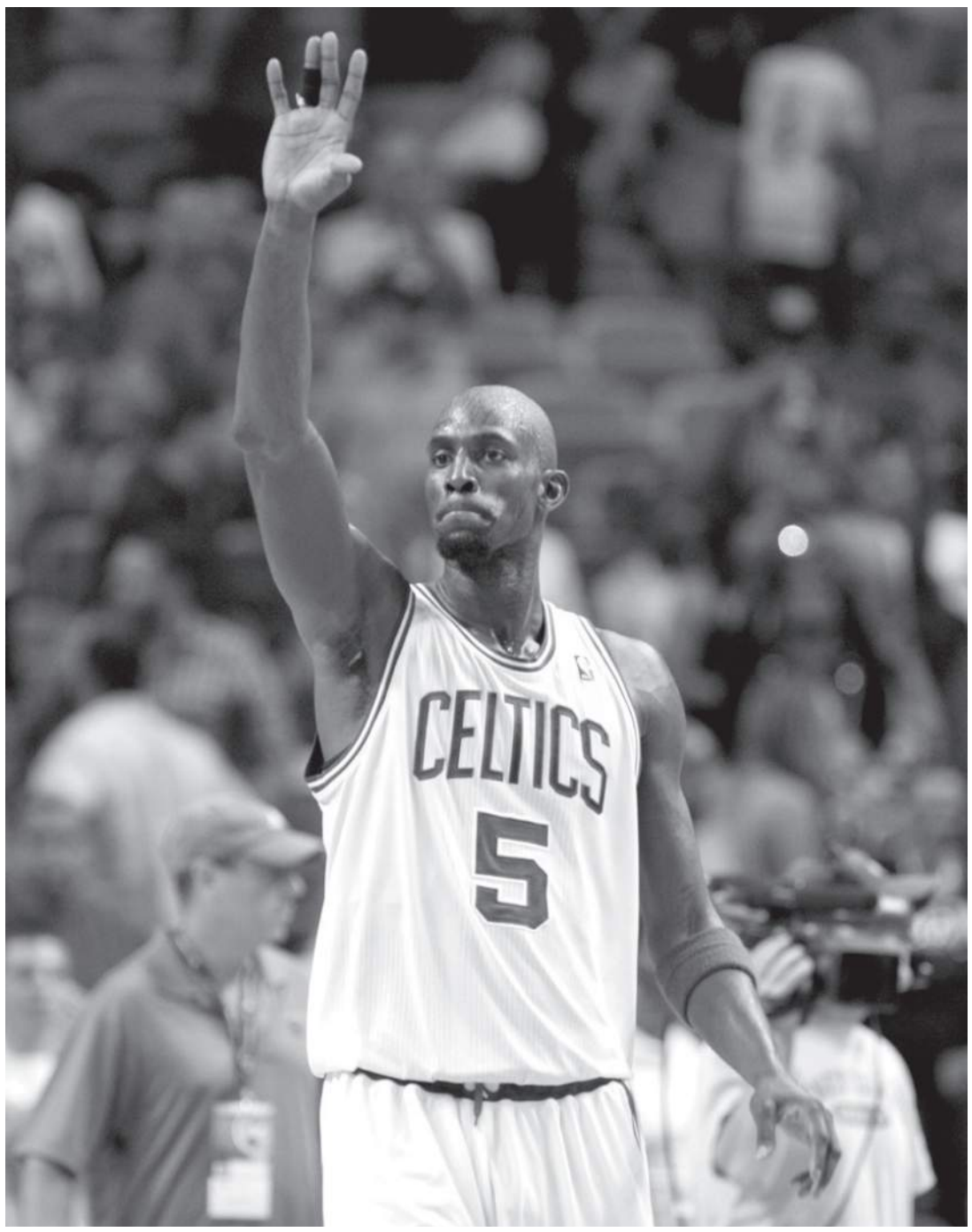
Miami had two shots to tie early in the fourth after being down by as many as 18 earlier, before Garnett made jump shots on four straight possessions, the average length of those makes being 19 feet.

A 10-0 run early in the first quarter gave Boston a quick lead—and that wasn't even the Celtics' best run of the opening period. Boston scored the last 11 of the first, the run actually becoming 13-0 when Garnett scored to open the second quarter, and Boston's lead was 35-22.

Everything the Celtics wanted, they got. Boston shot 61 percent in the first quarter, 62 percent in the second. Rivers used eight players, all of them making multiple shots by halftime. Of them, the only one who failed to make at least half his shots was Bass, who more than made up for that with six first-half rebounds.

Here's how well the Celtics were shooting: Miami went into the break shooting 51 percent from the field, 60 percent from 3-point range and 78 percent from the foul line - and Boston was at least 10 percentage points better in every department.

"None of us were expecting that," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "To give up 115 points on our home floor, that's not our style. And we're being made to feel uncomfortable right now. That's really the residual of the last three weeks or so. This is probably the one silver lining out of it, is our group, staff and players, we're getting to know each other now on the level that is needed for us to prepare for the playoffs.



AP

Boston Celtics forward Kevin Garnett celebrates after the Celtics defeated the Miami Heat 115-107 during an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 10, 2012 in Miami.

"We all know we have to take a real big step forward as a basketball team," Spoelstra added.

The next chance for that "big step" comes Thursday, when the Heat visit Chicago.

Down by 18 in the first half, Miami cut the deficit to 65-57 at halftime. James closed it with a 3, punching the air as the shot dropped.

Even with that, every moment of the second half was an uphill battle.

And the Celtics weren't being caught.

Miami got within five twice in the third, with Rondo answering both times to make it a three-possession game again. The Celtics held the Heat to 36 percent shooting in the quarter, keeping the eight-point lead entering the fourth at 89-81.

The Heat had two chances to tie early in the fourth, after starting the period on a 7-0 run. The first of those slipped away when Bosh failed to finish off a three-point play opportunity by missing from the line. The next came when Udonis Haslem missed from the left baseline with 9:17 left, and Boston's answer that time was absolute.

Allen made a catch-and-shoot 3 for a 94-89 lead, and then Garnett just took over.

"When they shoot like that, it's going to be tough to beat them," Wade said. "Obviously, we can always do things better. But give them credit."

Bulls 98, Knicks 86

In Chicago, the hosts overcame the absence of Derrick Rose and comfortably beat New York.

Richard Hamilton scored 20 points and Luol Deng added 19 for Chicago. Hamilton had 18 points in the third quarter to help Chicago stay ahead after building a 12-point halftime lead.

Rose was out due to a sprained right ankle, having only just returned from 12 games out with a groin strain.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 29 points.

76ers 107, Nets 88

In Newark, New Jersey, Spencer Hawes came off the bench for the first time and a scored a season-high 19 points to lead slumping Philadelphia over New Jersey.

The win snapped a four-game losing skide for Philadelphia, giving it a half-game lead over the Knicks for the No. 7 seed in the East. Lou Williams added 20 points for the 76ers.

Kris Humphries had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who were officially eliminated from playoff contention, for the fifth straight season.

Mavericks 110, Kings 100

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and Rodrigue Beaubouis each had 15 points to lead six Dallas players in double figures, beating Sacramento.

The Mavericks are seventh in the Western Conference standings—half a game behind sixth-place Houston and half a game ahead of Denver.

DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points and 18 rebounds for Sacramento, which has lost five in a row.

Wizards 93, Magic 85

In Washington, Kevin Seraphin took advantage of Dwight Howard's absence from Orlando's lineup, getting career highs of 24 points and 13 rebounds to lead Washington.

Jordan Crawford scored 21 points for the Wizards.

Jameer Nelson scored 19 points for the Magic, who shot 36.6 percent from the field and were missing Howard again with back spasms.

Cavaliers 103, Bobcats 90

In Cleveland, Lester Hudson scored 25 points, including 14 in the fourth quarter, to secure Cleveland;s win over league-worst Charlotte.

Anthony Parker, who missed the two previous games with a bruised sternum, scored 19 points for the Cavaliers.

Gerald Henderson's 21 points led Charlotte, which has lost 13 in a row and has won only 3 of 29 on the road.

Odom ending in Dallas after exchange with Cuban

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban had noticed Lamar Odom's uninspired play numerous times before, and kept hoping things would change.

It took one reply by Odom during a heated halftime exchange in his last game, when Cuban questioned the player's commitment to the team and Odom told him to quit playing games, to realize it was time for the two sides to part ways.

"Just his response to it. Everybody goes through ups and downs. Every player does. We tried to put him in a position to succeed. ... It didn't work," Cuban said Tuesday night, his first public comments since the team confirmed a day earlier that Odom was done in Dallas.

Their halftime exchange came after Odom played an uninspired four minutes Saturday night at Memphis.

"I just asked him, does he want to go for it or not. Is he in or is he out? I think he thought we were playing poker. I just didn't get a commitment. And that was the end," Cuban said. "This was a big game for us, and he wasn't connecting to that. And if you're not positive energy, you're negative energy."

When asked if that was the first time he noticed Odom having such a demeanor, Cuban responded, "No, but the first 17 times, I decided to try to help him and turn it into a positive."

That never happened.

Odom's averages of 6.6 points, 4.2 rebounds and 20.5 minutes in his underwhelming 50-game stint in Dallas were career lows. He was also often late for team activities such as practices and meetings.

The Mavericks didn't release him and instead said Odom would be listed inactive for their remaining nine games. That started with Tuesday night's game against Sacramento.

"He didn't want to play. He decided to go elsewhere or do something else. Now we regroup and go forward," Cuban said. "We kept on hoping things would turn out right. It just got to the point where there weren't enough games in the season to try to find out."

The defending NBA champion Mavericks were only one game ahead of ninth place in the Western Conference standings going into the game against the Kings.

Dallas acquired the NBA's reigning Sixth Man of the Year from the Los Angeles Lakers just before the lockout-shortened season. It was a low-risk deal for the Mavericks, who gave up a first-round pick and the trade exception from a deal that sent Tyson Chandler to the New York Knicks.

The Lakers seemed compelled to move the 6-foot-10 forward, who made $8.9 million this season, after trying to send him to New Orleans in a Chris Paul deal that was nixed by the league. There were also the personal issues for Odom, whose 24-year-old cousin was murdered last summer only days before the player was involved in a fatal car accident that killed a teen pedestrian after the car he was riding in as a passenger collided with a motorcycle.

Cuban said the Mavericks knew about Odom's fragile emotional state when they got him.

"Yeah, but we thought we could fight through it," Cuban said. "We knew that's why he was available."

Cuban insisted that he failed in trying to make the situation work, and that he didn't have to talk to anyone else to know the end had arrived.

Jonny's Sparks clinging to SEDA C Division lead

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Sparks are hanging on by a thread to first place of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association's C Division after absorbing a 6-9 reversal at home against Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's DRP (55-50) last Wednesday.

Other 2012 Winter-Summer Bud Light Dart League division frontrunners include Master's Ali'i Kamote of Es'y Kitchen, A Division's Mixblood Shooters II of SOS Bar & Grill, Ladies' Try Luck of Jonny's, Tuesday B's 80 Proofers of Sea Bridge, and Inter-Government's AG's Sakude, also out of Jonny's.

The Sparks' loss last Wednesday dropped its win-loss record to 60-45 and were fortunate not to be surpassed by Island Apparel's second place Oh MG! (59-46), which also lost, 5-10, against sister team Hafa Mas! (50-55) in a home draw held at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.

In addition, VFW Post 357's Party Rock (57-48) remains just three games away from the peak despite bearing a 5-10 road loss to Oceanside Bar & Grill's Shooters V1(55-50), while Oceanside's Shooters V2 (45-60) edged out 19th Hole Bar's Hole In One (32-73), 8-7, on the road.

Also on Wednesday, Ali'i Kamote survived Bammy's Aces (68-51), 9-8, at home to improve its record to 74-45 and now leads erstwhile co runner-up Aces by six games.

VFW's Maharot Crew (68-51) feasted on its last place D'Companeros (40-79), 12-5, in a home draw and is now knotted on deck with the Aces.

SOS' Destroyers (58-61) pulled out a 10-7 upset over its sister team All Stars (63-56) in a home draw and SOS' Mixblood Rookies (60-59) worked up a swift, 14-3, road victory over Bammy's Sabalu Boyz (45-74).

Back on Monday, April 2, Mixblood Shooters II fell to sister team 101 Proofers (60-59), 9-8, in a home draw, but remains in first place by two games with its overall record of 70 wins and 49 losses.

Bammy's A-Frontrunner Bud Brothers (68-51) went into Sand's and hemmed up the Juvy Predators (51-68), 11-6, for second place, while Bammy's third-ranked Sabalu (64-55) defeated Naked Fish's Naked Fish Boyz (61-58), 10-7, at home and VFW's Primos (46-73) upset Bammy's Celebrity (56-63), 10-7, on the road.

Also on Monday, Try Luck improved its overall card to 78-27 with a 10-5 road win over Naked Fish's third-ranked Man Amigas (61-44).

It may take more than just a little luck to surpass the defending champs as they now boast a dozen game cushion atop the division.

In other results VFW's B-52's (66-39) defeated 19th Hole Bar's Team Reapers (43-62), 10-5, at home and remain in second place, while Joe's Just Like Dat (56-49) topped its sister team Daffodils (39-66), 9-6, in a home draw and Bammy's Momes'l Mei (46-59) defeated SOS' Daarty Deedz (31-74), 10-5, in a road match.

Last Tuesday, the 80 Proofers absorbed a 7-8 trip up at home in SOS to Joe's bottom feeder Good Guys II (40-65), but remain at the helm by a couple of games with its 65-40 record

Meanwhile, there is a tie for second place between Na'Gupu Too! and SOS' Mixblood Shooters III after the former stood up the latter, 8-7, at home in Naked Fish; both teams hold slates of 63 wins and 42 losses.

Jonny's Star Maharot (51-54) remains in fourth place despite a 7-8 road upset compliments of Jonny's Dosukebe Boyz (48-57) and Poseidon's seventh-ranked K-1 Scorpions (44-61) defeated Naked Fish's Dartaholiks (46-59), 9-6, at home.

Finally, back on Friday, AG's Sakude escaped Bammy's second-ranked CUC Power Plant (54-36), 8-7, at home to improve to 59-31. Jonny's DPS Bad Boyz (34-56) also bagged an 8-7 road win over Naked Fish's NMC Proa (33-57).

CWGA's Ace of Aces event this weekend

The CNMI Women's Golfers Association is holding its two-day Ace of Aces event this Saturday and Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Show time for Saturday's round is set at 11:30am with a 12:30pm tee off, while golfers are requested to show up by 12:30pm for Sunday's final round, which is scheduled to commence at 1:30pm.

A lot of prizes will also be up for grabs during the awards banquet held poolside after the event at 6pm; guest admittance costs $25 per person.

Last year, Shiore Onoue was crowned the overall points-leader (108) and went home with a brand new golf bag.

The CWGA utilizes a standard net score format, where a predetermined point system is tallied during the season.

First place is awarded 15 points, 14 for second and so on down through the top ten place finishers, and the rest receive a point for participation. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

MONTGOMERY

From Page 28

Montgomery and Quan, who helped the CNMI dominate the tennis competition in the 2006 Micronesian Games that Saipan hosted, topped the four-team field, securing the championship after sweeping junior player Christian Miller and 2010 Micro Games veteran Bobby Cruz in the finals, 6-3, 7-5.

The eventual champions were first pitted against Lee Dong Min and Nanding Cajigan and won their first match last Saturday at the PIC hard court, 6-3, 6-2, to advance to the title game. Cruz and Miller took the other finals berth, following a tough 7-5, 7-5 victory over junior player Jake Lee and veteran Roy Pangelinan.

Also seeing action in the adults doubles competition of the PIC tournament was another Micro Games participant—Michelle Pang of Guam. Pang teamed up with Saipan's Lydia Tan and the duo made it all the way to the finals before losing to the CNMI's No. 1 girls U18 player Thea Minor and former junior player Vivian Lee in the finals. Lee and Minor pulled off a close 6-4 win in the opening set and then cruised to a 6-1 triumph in the second.

Thea Minor and Lee first played against Theecel Minor and Mikayla Lopez and won, 6-2, 6-3, while Pang and Tan also won over Theecel and Lopez, 6-2, 6-1, to march into the finals.

Three other doubles events were played in Week 1 of the two-weekend PIC tournament with the tandems of Nina Engelhardt and Heather Sullivan, Ernie Henzon and James Libut, and Feel Kalen and Dong Lacbayo ruling their respective divisions.

Engelhardt and Sullivan took the women's 3.0 doubles crown after beating Joy Minor and Malika Miyawaki in the finals, 6-4, 6-3. The eventual champions made it to the finals after eliminating Sakiko Eda and Chiharu Sato, 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, while Joy Minor and Miyawaki prevailed over mother and daughter Ayumi and Conatsu Kaga, 6-3, 6-3.

In the men's 3.0 doubles, Libut and Henzon dueled the father and son pair of Randy and Richard Steele and won in straight sets, 6-1, 6-0. The men's 4.0 doubles was also a two-team battle with Kalen and Lacbayo downing George Poquiz and Abe Malae, 6-0, 6-3.

Meanwhile, the last week of the PIC tournament will be played today with players competing in the adults singles and juniors doubles.

KOBLERVILLE

From Page 28

Christopher Hans (16.21 seconds) and San Vicente's Ayeras (17.91 seconds) had the fastest qualifying times in Week 1.

The Umangs and Canaries bets also dominated the qualifying events in the boys and girls U18 long jump and 4x100m relays and the U10 60m, 100m, long jumper, and 4x100m relays.

For the U12 division, Garapan Elementary School finally showed its top form when its students won the boys 60m and 100m qualifiers, and girls long jump. Koblerville was still at it in the U12 age group, leading the girls 60m and 100m races, and boys and girls 4x100m relay, while Oleai Elementary School's Rony Omar posted the best record in the boys' long jump (4.52m).

Qualifying events rules

This year's qualifying tournaments will implement a new set of rules.

Participating schools will compete per each zone in the different sprints, middle distance, throw, and jump events.

For the sprints (60m, 100m, 200m), the Top 2 finishers in each zone will automatically qualify for the All Schools Championship next month. Then the rest of the times from all zones will be compiled with the Top 2 getting the last two tickets.

For the middle distance (400m, 800m, and 1,500m), throw (javelin, softball and shotput), and jump events (long and high jump), the Top 3 from each zone will make it straight to the championship, while the Top 3 from all zones combined will win the remaining slots.

Zone A is composed of Saipan Community School, Dandan Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School. Whispering Palms is in Zone B along with Oleai, Kagman, San Antonio, and Brilliant Start, while Zone C has Koblerville, SIS, San Vicente, Tanapag, and Garapan.

The zone system is implemented only in the elementary division.

Results of Week 1 of the qualifiers in the high school and junior high will be published in *Saipan Tribune*'s Friday edition.

KHS

From Page 28

minute for a swift 2-0 lead.

Josh Muna's shot then sailed true in the 19th minute and fellow Ayuyu Angelo Guevarra capped off the opening frame with a fourth goal.

MHS was shorthanded coming into the match, but fortunately KHS agreed to play the first half in a 7-on-7 format.

Seeing the writing on the wall, MHS conceded at intermission, but the teams finished the game in an exhibition setting and threw in some junior varsity players to keep it interesting.

SSHS 3, KHS 2 (April 3)

The Manta Rays built a 2-1 lead in the first half from Yong Joon Jeon in the eighth minute and Jake Lee in the 15th minute of the opening half.

KHS' Mark King obliged with a goal in the 22nd minute to make it a, 2-1, count in favor of SSHS at the break.

After the early slip ups, the Ayuyus buckled down on defense for the grit of the match and battled its way back late in the second half.

KHS' Jack Tanopan scored just over 10 minutes into the second frame in the 46th minute to lock it at 2-all, but SSHS' Lee played the hero and bagged the clutch go ahead score in the 66th minute.

MHS 3, KHS 2 (April 2)

MHS' John Taisacan found the back of the net in the 34th minute of the first half just before the buzzer to give the Dolphins a 1-0 edge at halftime.

His teammate Lin Zhi Peng later fired a long strike from outside the goalie box in the 47th minute for a brief 2-0 lead, but KHS' Jack Tanopan answered with a quick hit in the 50th minute.

MHS went on the attack in the ensuing kickoff and Peng keenly positioned himself at the opposing net and contrived a nice spin move for another goal this time from point blank range.

KHS' Josh Muna scored a save face goal just two minutes later, but the Ayuyus ran out of time.

SHIRLEY'S

From Page 28

four straight goals (70th, 73rd, 78th, and 81st), while Marielle Gariguez (53rd and 65th) and Pagarao (57th and 68th) alternately scored Shirley's first four goals in the second half.

With the blowout loss, Matansa is still winless in four games.

In the other match last weekend, Paire edged Independents, 1-0.

Nicole LeBlanc scored the winning goal in the second half, breaking Paire's silence in the 34th minute of the final 45 minutes of play.

Meanwhile, last Friday's match between MP United and Tan Holdings resulted in a forfeit in favor of the former after the latter failed to field enough players in the game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	24	.579	–
Philadelphia	30	27	.526	3
New York	29	28	.509	4
New Jersey	21	38	.356	13
Toronto	20	38	.345	13 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Miami	40	16	.714	–
Atlanta	34	23	.596	6 1/2
Orlando	34	24	.586	7
Washington	14	44	.241	27
Charlotte	7	49	.125	33

Central Division

x-Chicago	44	14	.759	–
Indiana	35	22	.614	8 1/2
Milwaukee	28	29	.491	15 1/2
Detroit	21	36	.368	22 1/2
Cleveland	19	36	.345	23 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

x-San Antonio	40	15	.727	–
Memphis	33	23	.589	7 1/2
Houston	32	25	.561	9
Dallas	32	26	.552	9 1/2
New Orleans	15	42	.263	26

Northwest Division

y-Oklahoma City	42	15	.737	–
Denver	31	26	.544	11
Utah	30	28	.517	12 1/2
Portland	27	31	.466	15 1/2
Minnesota	25	33	.431	17 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	36	22	.621	–
L.A. Clippers	34	23	.596	1 1/2
Phoenix	30	27	.526	5 1/2
Golden State	22	34	.393	13
Sacramento	19	39	.328	17

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Cleveland 103, Charlotte 90
Boston 115, Miami 107
Washington 93, Orlando 85
Philadelphia 107, New Jersey 88
Dallas 110, Sacramento 100
Chicago 98, New York 86

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	3	1	.750	–
Baltimore	3	2	.600	1/2
Toronto	3	2	.600	1/2
New York	2	3	.400	1 1/2
Boston	1	4	.200	2 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	4	0	1.000	–
Kansas City	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Chicago	2	2	.500	2
Cleveland	1	3	.250	3
Minnesota	0	4	.000	4

West Division

Texas	4	1	.800	–
Seattle	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	2	2	.500	1 1/2
Oakland	2	4	.333	2 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	4	1	.800	–
Washington	3	2	.600	1
Miami	2	3	.400	2
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	2 1/2
Atlanta	1	4	.200	3

Central Division

St. Louis	5	1	.833	–
Houston	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Milwaukee	3	2	.600	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	2	2	.500	2
Cincinnati	2	3	.400	2 1/2
Chicago	1	4	.200	3 1/2

West Division

Arizona	4	0	1.000	–
Los Angeles	4	1	.800	1/2
Colorado	1	3	.250	3
San Francisco	1	3	.250	3
San Diego	1	4	.200	3 1/2

Yesterday's Games

L.A. Dodgers 2, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 1
Washington 6, N.Y. Mets 2
Atlanta 6, Houston 4
Milwaukee 7, Chicago Cubs 4
Arizona 4, San Diego 2, 11 innings
Detroit 5, Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 4, 12 innings
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd., rain
Toronto 7, Boston 3
Texas 1, Seattle 0
Kansas City 3, Oakland 0 innings

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2012 Tagaman Triathlon Winners

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Top 6 finishers in the men's division of the 2012 Tagaman Triathlon pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony at the Pacific Islands Club late last month.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, women's division champions Eden Schwartz, Susan Marchitti, and Janet King pose at the finish line.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

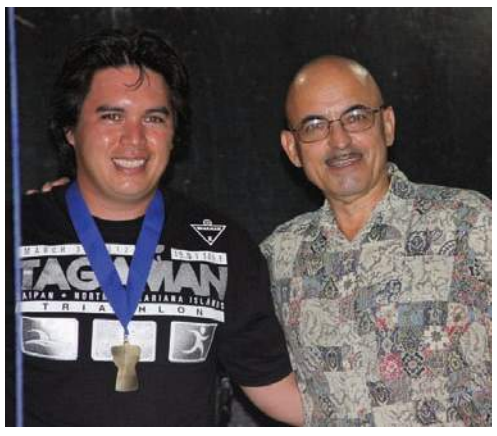
Tagaman mixed relay champions, from left, Mamiko Oshima-Berger, Aldrin Sta. Ana, and Kento Akimaru.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mixed relay third placers Roxie Lamar, second left, and Erico Castro, third left, are joined by MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, left, and Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica in the awards ceremony.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Danny Garcia, Jeff El Hajj, and Nap Dizon pose for a photo after receiving their runner-up medal in the men's relay race.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Angelo Villagomez, left, poses with Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica after receiving his medal in the 30 to 34 age group.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Top Saipan non-pro finisher Lewie Tenorio, center, smiles for the camera while posing with IT&E's Brad Ruszala, left, and Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Edmund Ewing, Wilfredo Barbo, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel won the men's relay race.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mixed relay runners-up Derek Chambers, Cesar Danao, and Victoria Chentsova.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Top 6 finishers in the women's division wear mwar during the awards presentation.

TSL SPORTS COMPLEX

Activity Schedule for April 12, 2012

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Morning practices
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM: Evening practices

NMBA NORTHERN MARIANAS BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League

Quarterfinals
7:00 PM: JP Center/TSL Plaza vs. D&Q/CTSI
9:00 PM: POI/RMS vs. Shirley's Coffee Shop

Gillette MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM

There are no scheduled games.

SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL

Marlins' Ozzie Guillen apologizes over Castro flap

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Garnett, Celtics shoot past Heat, 115-107

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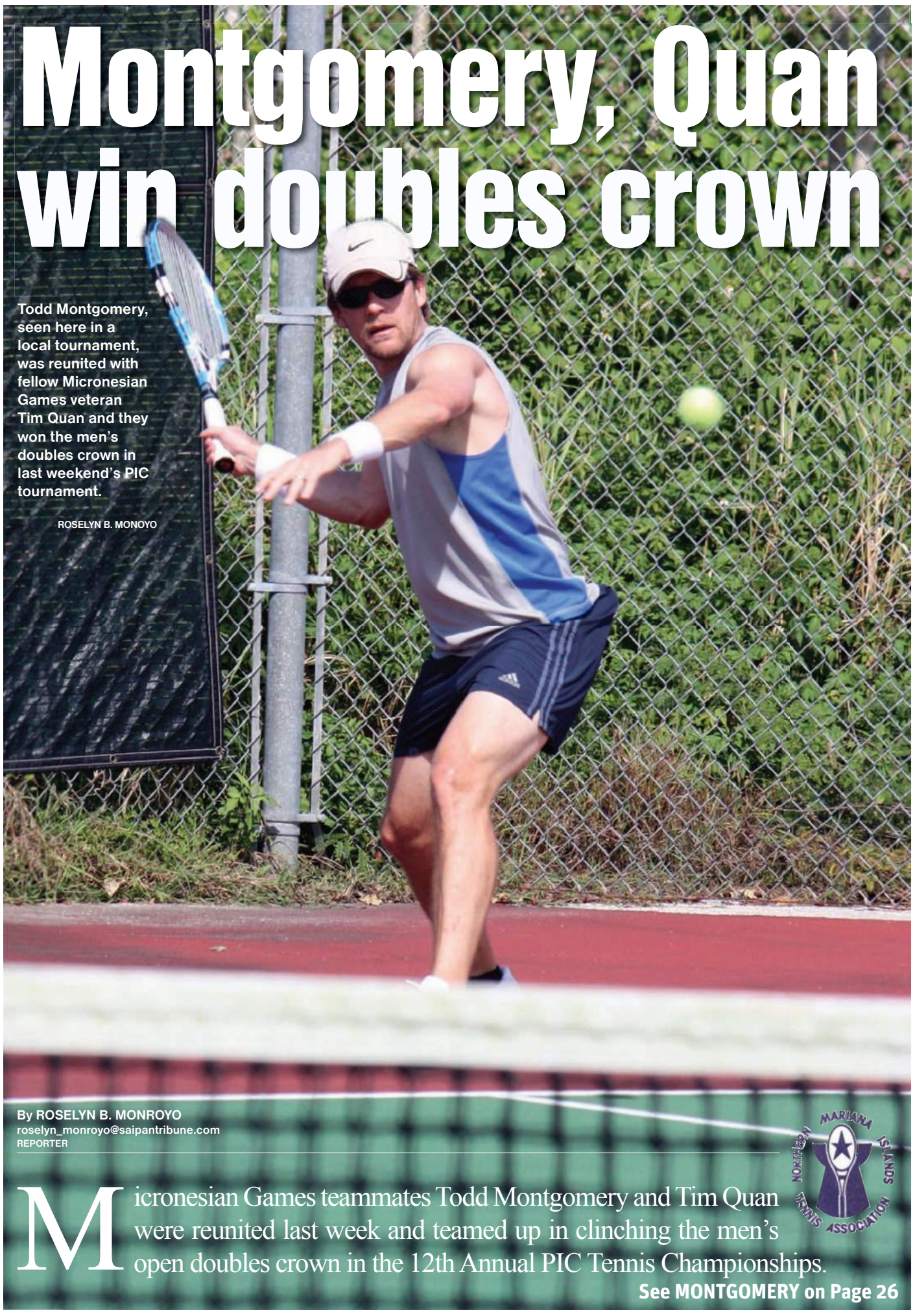
Montgomery, Quan win doubles crown



Todd Montgomery, seen here in a local tournament, was reunited with fellow Micronesian Games veteran Tim Quan and they won the men's doubles crown in last weekend's PIC tournament.

ROSELYN B. MONOYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Games teammates Todd Montgomery and Tim Quan were reunited last week and teamed up in clinching the men's open doubles crown in the 12th Annual PIC Tennis Championships.

See MONTGOMERY on Page 26

Koblerville, San Vicente show might in All Schools qualifiers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Students from Koblerville and San Vicente elementary schools stood out in Week 1 of the qualifying tournaments for the 2012 McDonald's 2012 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Championship at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the boys U8 60m qualifying races, three Umangs and two Canaries made it to the Top 5. Koblerville's Jesstin Laniyo (9.81 seconds) was first, followed by teammate Hans Christopher (10.05 seconds), San Vicente's Joey Saures (10.14 seconds), Koberville's Rudy Kaipat (10.53 seconds), and San Vicente's Joven Reyes (10.54 seconds).

Nineteen runners joined the boys U18 60m qualifying runs, including those from Saipan International School, Tanapag, Garapan, and Brilliant Star.

In the girls' U8 60m qualifiers, San Vicente's Maryzon Ayeras topped the field after Week 1 with her 10.11 second, followed by two Koblerville's Naliena (10.55 seconds) and Rosannie Deleon Guerrero (10.81 seconds), and teammates Lilian Podziewski (10.91 seconds) and Rita Agulto (10.92 seconds).

In the U8 100m, Koberville's

See KOBLERVILLE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A student competes in the U8 softball throw qualifier for the All Schools meet yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

KHS strikers shut out MHS, 4-0

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Kagman High School Ayuyus finally broke into the win column with a 4-0 victory over the Marianas High School Dolphins in Tuesday's Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization boys soccer match held on Hopwood Junior High School field.

KHS fell to the Dolphins, 2-3, in the season opener played last April 2 and then experienced déjà vu against Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays on April 3.

The season continues this Friday at 3:45pm with MHS taking on SSHS on the Oleai Sports Complez field at the Oleai Sports Complex.

KHS 4, MHS 0

It was all Ayuyus on Tuesday as KHS' Mark King netted a goal in the third minute of action and hit the Dolphins again in the eighth

See KHS on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Kagman High School forward, in yellow, tugs back and forth with a Marianas High School player at midfield as they battle for the ball in Tuesday's MISO boys soccer match held at the Hopwood Junior High School field.

Shirley's, Paire shut out women's league foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Shirley's FC continued its winning ways in the 2012 NMIFA Women's Spring League.

The undefeated club crushed Matansa FC, 15-0, in last Saturday's first game at the Hopwood Junior High School Field to notch its third win in as many matches.

Marilou Gariguez led Shirley's demolition of Matansa, scoring five goals, while Lalaine Pagarao also did a lot of damage on offense, chipping in four goals. Marielle Gariguez contributed three goals, while Jeraldine Castillo and Charlene Lizardo made one each to complete the lopsided win.

Matansa was doomed early in the game when Saifon Kabkhuntod committed a booboo just two minutes into the first half, knocking in the ball toward the goal, giving Shirley's FC a 1-0 lead.

Then six minutes later, Marilou Gariguez hit her first goals, while Castillo also found the back of the net in the 10th minute for Shirley's 3-0 lead. Back-to-back goals from Pagarao put Shirley's on top by five, 5-0, with still 12 minutes left in the first half, which ended with Lizardo and Marielle Gariguez also breaking into the scoreboard for their big 7-0 advantage.

In the second half, Marilou Gariguez and company were still unstoppable, as they toyed around the defense of Matansa and drilled eight more goals. Marilou Gariguez drained

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26